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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Should MPLT grant CUC's loan application for \$4.5 million so it could rent power engines from Aggreko to stabilize Saipan's power supply?

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to cast your vote.

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### Sick Leave

Need to call in sick? There are right and wrong ways to let your boss know you're a no-show.

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### Anwar Arrested

Police arrest Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim on suspicion that he sodomized a male aide.

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### New Album

Britney Spears is back in the studio and at work on a "brand-new album."

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New shrimp farm opens on Rota. **PAGE 2**

Early morning earthquake hits NMI. **PAGE 8**

# CUC-Aggreko deal still on

By AGNES E. DONATO  
[agnes\\_donato@saipantribune.com](mailto:agnes_donato@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has assured Aggreko International Power Projects that their deal for temporary power is still on, even though the funding source for the contract remains uncertain.

See CUC on Page 4

## Fund stops benefits of ex-governors and lt. governors

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has stopped paying special benefits to former governors and lieutenant governors because the central government has not remitted the money.



Aguon

Fund Administrator Mark Aguon said in a letter to the Legislature that the pension program has not received the Executive Branch

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Muna

What seems to be missing here is fairness to those who participated in the previous bidding process.

—Antonio Muna, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

## Muna: Aggreko deal is competitive

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The head honcho of the islands' utility agency came to the defense of its contract

with Aggreko, saying that putting out a new Request for Proposals to rent back-up power generators is unfair to those who participated in the

See MUNA on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

### A PLEDGE FOR HEALTH

CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program's Marina P. Deleon Guerrero signs the "Five-Year Strategic Plan Partner Pledge" while World Health Organization Nutrition and Physical Activity officer Dr. Temo K. Waqanivalu looks on, during the culmination of the three-day meeting at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club yesterday. The event was attended by representatives of various government agencies, non-profit organizations and private businesses and was hosted by the Health Promotion Council, a project initiated by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services. See story on Page 7.

## Alien workers' group raises issues with feds

By AGNES E. DONATO  
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REPORTER

A foreign workers group has outlined

issues it wants included in the new immigration regulations in a meeting with federal officials earlier this week.

A more permanent immigration sta-

tus, expedited processing of temporary worker visas for qualified guest workers, and a limited amnesty for overstaying alien workers are some of the provisions

## RELATED NEWS

Grey: Federalization a frustration for businesses.

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# Local

## New shrimp farm starts operations on Rota

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR

A new shrimp farm on Rota began raising its first crustacean crop ever Thursday with the aide of staff from Northern Marianas College, a debut that comes as lawmakers and local business leaders are eying the aquaculture industry as a prospective economic boon for the Commonwealth.

The new farm's opening comes after a landmark aquaculture conference on Saipan last week aimed at spurring the development of new businesses, and as legislators are weighing a bill to establish import restrictions on Rota to safeguard future aquaculture operations against disease.

Aquaculture is a multi-million dollar business according to statistics from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Worldwide aquaculture production nets an estimated \$70 billion annually with significant potential for growth in the U.S. market, NOAA says.

Owned by Taga Diversified Products LLC, the new farm has already released its first batch of shrimp larvae into tanks after their arrival on a flight from Guam. The farm's first harvest, according to NMC aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo, who was on hand there Thursday to provide technical assistance, could be ready by December.

"Christmas shrimp, just in time for the holidays," he said

with a laugh during a phone interview, adding the farm, with a staff of 4, could produce up to 100,000 shrimp in each crop.

With one shrimp farm already seeing early success on Saipan and another planned on Tinian, Ogo added that aquaculture could eventually become a significant industry in the Commonwealth.

"We're certainly moving in that direction," Ogo said. "We could one day have shrimp farms on all three of those islands."

Guam and Rota are the new farm's primary targets for marketing its shrimp crops, according to Vincent Hocog, one of the farm's owners. Hocog is hopeful, given the economic

downturn much of the Commonwealth has seen in recent years, that shrimp farming could be a booming business in the future.

"We do hope business will move in that direction with the economy and how that is going," Hocog said. In addition, Hocog thanked NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program, an outreach service the college operates, for its assistance with launching the farm.

## EMO advises people to be ready for typhoon season

The Emergency Management Office is now alerting the community to be prepared for the typhoon season.

According to EMO, tropical storms and typhoons can occur any time during the year in the Marianas region, but most frequently during the rainy season between August to December.

Acting EMO director Juan Takai Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* said their office as well as other government agencies are prepared for the typhoon season.

Camacho advised people to also be ready for this season.

To inform the public about typhoon precautionary measures, the EMO will soon be hosting a proclamation signing ceremony declaring September as Disaster Preparedness Month.

"Most activities will be happening by September where the Disaster Preparedness Month signing of proclamation will be held," the acting director said.

He said EMO would start

See EMO on Next Page



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# PTI unveils Express Center at TSL Plaza

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
stefan\_sebastian@saipantribune.com  
BUSINESS EDITOR

Pacific Telecommunication Inc. customers have a new place to shop and pay bills after the company on Wednesday unveiled a new store in Garapan dedicated to marketing its wireless products.

Gov. Benigno Fitial was on hand for the event and said the new store demonstrates PTI's dedication to the Common-

wealth during the recent economic downturn.

"Regardless of the current economic climate, PTI is here to stay," Fitial said. "PTI is committed to the telecommunications business in the Marianas. This new office is yet another example of this company's solid commitment to the CNMI."

PTI marketing manager Kathryn Barry said the new store is key to the company's plans for marketing wireless technology

in the Commonwealth, particularly given its "roll-out" of evolution data optimized communications products, a new wireless transmission standard.

"With the exclusive roll-out of EVDO high speed data for PTI wireless phones, customers will want to become more familiar with what their wireless phone's capabilities are," Barry said. "The PTI Wireless Express Center fulfills that need."

The "Wireless Express Cen-

ter" at the TSL Plaza will have later hours than its store on Middle Road. The shop will serve as an added point for customers to pay bills and purchase phone cards or other products.

"We wanted our customers to have the convenience of multiple locations and extended hours," Barry said.

The new store's hours are 10am to 7pm Monday through Friday and 10am to 2pm Saturdays.

Gov. Benigno Fitial, PTI president and CEO Ricky Delgado, PTI's Kathryn Barry, Lynn Santos, Carlene Reyes-Tenorio and Fr. Ryan Jimenez lead the ribbon cutting for the opening of PTI's new Wireless Express Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan Wednesday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

## EMO

From Page 2

putting out brochures and banners of disaster preparedness and providing the public other educational materials.

EMO said the potential threats from typhoons come

from very strong winds, flooding caused by heavy rains, hazardous surf conditions, and washouts of coastal areas caused by extreme wave action.

The last major typhoon to hit the CNMI was Supertyphoon Chaba, which made

landfall on August 25, 2004. Damage was estimated at \$18 million. Days later, President Bush also declared the CNMI a major disaster area.

Before this, Supertyphoon Pongsona and Typhoon Chata'an both ravaged the island of Rota in 2002.

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# Man gets two years for pushing 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday imposed a two-year prison term on a drug pusher who was arrested last year during a pursuit that injured one police officer.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Zong Guo Li to a total of 24 months in prison for three counts of distribution of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" near a school.

Upon release from prison, Li will be placed on six years supervised release. Among the conditions of the supervised release is that Li shall be turned over to an Immigration official for deportation.

Li will also be required to perform 200 hours of community service.

Munson ordered him to immediately

pay a \$300 special assessment fee to the U.S. government.

After yesterday's hearing, Li was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Li was actually facing eight separate charges. He and counsel G. Anthony Long signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

He pleaded guilty to three charges in connection with his possession with the intent to distribute "ice." The remaining charges were dismissed.

A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent stated in court papers that beginning on May 8, 2007 up to Nov. 7, 2007, Li and other persons conspired to distribute "ice" on Saipan. In several instances, police used a "cooperating source" to buy "ice" from Li near Hanam Market in Koblerville, which is located less than 1,000 feet



Munson

from Saipan Southern High School.

On one occasion, the agent said, when a detective wearing a vest with the word "POLICE" approached Li's vehicle and attempted to open the driver's side, Li sped away.

The detective was forced to jump out of the path of Li's vehicle to avoid being run down.

Li then turned down a dead-end dirt road in Koblerville where he jumped out of the vehicle and attempted to run into the jungle.

Surveillance officers pursued Li on foot. A detective struck a piece of tin that was attached to a building at the end of the road. The detective sustained a large laceration to his leg.

The officers subsequently tackled the defendant.

During the search, the agent said, detectives recovered from Li's vehicle 24 grams of ice, including the packaging.

During the search at Li's residence in Afetnas, the agent added, detectives recovered 93 grams of bags similar to those used to package "ice."

## Tinian Peace Ceremony to celebrate sixth year

Organizers of the annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony have begun preparations for their sixth ceremony since its inception in 2003. This year's ceremony will be held on August 6th, the anniversary of the 1945 American atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan by the Enola Gay, which took off from the island of Tinian.

Scheduled events for the ceremony

include a Sounding of the Sirens at 9:15 am at the Children's Peace Monument that will coincide with the moment of silence at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony in Japan; 9:15 am is the local time the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. A special multi-faith prayer for peace is also scheduled for the morning portion of the peace ceremony. An evening candlelight vigil featuring performances of

peace songs and poetry by community members will be held at 7:00 pm on the night of the ceremony. Thirteen students and two teachers from Tinian Junior Senior High School's sister-school Hiroshima Koryo High School will arrive on Tinian on August 4 as special participants.

Organizers of the event are asking community members to support the annual ceremony by participating in the painting and ground preparation events scheduled for the weeks prior to the ceremony. For more information please contact James M. Mendiola Jr., at tinianpeaceceremony@gmail.com.

## ALIEN

From Page 1

that the Coalition of United Workers asked the U.S. government to consider as the new immigration law is implemented in the Commonwealth.

Irene Tantiado, president of the Coalition of United Workers, presented these requests in a meeting last Monday with visiting officials of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and other agencies tasked with drafting the

regulations. The federal delegation left Wednesday.

Tantiado said the federal officials appeared to be "considerate and sympathetic" to her group's requests, but they offered no commitment. "As I've said, there were no false hopes," she said yesterday.

Tantiado reported that, in the meeting, the coalition repeated its plea for permanent residency for long-time guest workers in the Northern Marianas. According to Tantiado, the federal officials indicated that the issuance of "green cards" is un-

likely in the near future, especially with a new administration taking over the White House in 2009.

The federal officials also reportedly raised concern that foreign workers might leave the CNMI once able to live and work elsewhere in the United States. In response, Tantiado said, she suggested that the new green card holders be required to stay in the Commonwealth for a certain period of time—two or three years, for instance—before allowing them to move to Guam or the states.

The gradual reduction of guest workers in the Commonwealth was also discussed in the meeting. According to Tantiado, the federal officials said that guest workers would be allowed in the Commonwealth for as long as they are needed.

The coalition urged for expedited processing of H visas for foreign workers who "clearly" qualify for them, and special consideration for workers who may qualify for H visas and who have worked in the CNMI for three or more years.

Tantiado's group also asked the fed-

eral official to permit currently overstaying aliens to register with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and seek lawful employment status. The group proposed that those unable to find work within 12 months of registration be allowed to leave the CNMI at their own expense, instead of being deported.

The coalition further asked that the U.S. government assign permanent officers to enforce federal wage, anti-discrimination, and workplace safety laws in the Commonwealth.

## FUND

From Page 1

contribution for the special annuities for the former officials for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2008, which covers the period between July 1, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2008.

The special benefits total about \$45,000. The Retirement Fund set a July 15, 2008 deadline, but as of yesterday, the Department of Finance has not sent the money.

"It still has not been remitted, so we're not paying," said Aguon. He cited the Retirement Fund board's directive stating that the agency must stop

paying the benefits if the funds are not received to cover them.

Aguon added that the central government had been making timely payments until now.

A CNMI statute entitles every former governor or lieutenant governor to a special retirement annuity of 65 percent of the highest sal-

ary authorized by law for each of these positions.

However, a governor or lieutenant governor who is entitled to any other retirement compensation from the CNMI government has to choose to receive either that compensation or the special annuity. Some governors and lieutenant

governors have enough years of public service to qualify for regular pension benefits.

The government's failure to fund the special benefits for former governors and lieutenant governors was one of the causes of action cited by the Fund in its pending lawsuit against the central government.

## MUNA

From Page 1

previous biddings.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said yesterday that when the original RFP for temporary power was announced on Sept. 19, 2006, there were 12 interested bidders who picked up bid documents.

The bidders included Telesource, Cummins Power Gen., GE Infra, Energy and the three that actually responded—Leader Universal, Alstom Power

Rentals, and Aggreko.

Muna disagreed with the suggestion that CUC will get better results by announcing the RFP again.

MP Magazine publisher Ed Propst who, along with Rep. Tina Sablan, organized the public forum on CUC issues, had suggested, among other things, that the Fitial administration put up a new RFP so the utility agency can find the most affordable back-up generators.

But Muna said that, "what seems to be missing here is fairness to those who participated in the previous bidding process."

Nonetheless, Muna said, the bottom line is that the CUC-Aggreko contract is "competitive" in comparison to present charges by independent power providers Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. and Telesource.

He said PMIC, which operates Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico, charges CUC 4.1 cents per kilowatt hour, on top of the fuel and lube oil that CUC provides PMIC.

On the other hand, Telesource, which operates the Tinian power plant, charges CUC a production fee for base load at 3 cents per kWh and 7 cents per kWh in excess of the base load, he

said. In addition, Telesource charges CUC a management fee of \$54,000 per month and a promissory note payment of \$180,000 per month. CUC provides only fuel for Telesource.

The Aggreko contract, Muna said, is competitive at 5 cents per kWh as it will include lube oil, maintenance, and management. CUC will only provide fuel to Aggreko.

Under the Aggreko contract, CUC must make an initial payment of \$1.5 million before the company ships the generators. The monthly rate will cost \$336,000 or \$504,000, depending on

whether CUC avails of 10 megawatt or 15 megawatt of electrical power.

Muna said CUC will be announcing an RFP for an independent power producer to sell power to CUC following "the successful model of reliability" of PMIC and Telesource.

"I suggest that all those who have contacted Mr. Propst that they can provide power for [a rate that's] cheaper than 5 cents per kWh, to include maintenance, capitalization, and management and where CUC will only provide fuel, can make their proposals," he said.

## CUC

From Page 1

CUC executive director Antonio S. Muña in a letter to Stephen Dunlop, Aggreko's Singapore-based sales director, said that CUC "is still interested in leasing temporary power units" from the company.

Muña said CUC expects to make the initial contract payment of \$1.5 million by the end of this month.

"Please continue to hold neces-

sary inventory to ensure that you can deliver required units pursuant to the contract delivery timeline of 36 days," Muña said. He noted that the delivery timeline may have to be extended if payment is made after July 31, 2008.

Yet it remains unclear where CUC will get the money to pay Aggreko. CUC's plan to borrow money from the Marianas Public Land Trust has been put on hold due to legal issues. The leadership at the House of Representatives has expressed willingness to ap-

propriate funds to CUC, but no bill has yet been introduced in either house of the Legislature.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday urged the Legislature to pass legislation earmarking interest and dividend income of MPLT investments for 2009 and 2010 to CUC. If such an earmark is passed into law, CUC will get approximately \$3.4 million to pay Aggreko and settle debts to other contractors.

MPLT, which is tasked with investing money collected from the use of

public lands, remits approximately \$1.7 million of income a year to the central government for appropriation by the Legislature.

"As you know, with the record rise in fuel costs, CUC is struggling to maintain sufficient operational funds and the CNMI government is in no position to subsidize CUC operations, given the sharp decline in government revenues," the governor said.

"I know you fully appreciate our local community's enormous frustration with frequent power outages

and I trust you will consider this proposal to finally resolve our power crisis for the Commonwealth's benefit," Fitial added.

CUC has hired the U.K.-based Aggreko International to provide 15 MW of temporary power to Saipan, which is suffering constant blackouts due to the poor condition of its power plant. Under the contract, CUC must make an initial payment of \$1.5 million before Aggreko ships the rental generators. The contract costs a total of \$6 million.



# Grey: Federalization a frustration for businesses

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**  
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The federal takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration and foreign labor rules will likely force businesses to go through a lengthy and often expensive process to get the workers they need, CNMI Director of Immigration Melvin Grey said in a speech Thursday.

"Be prepared for a lot of work and a lot of frustration," Grey said before a local chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management at the Pacific Islands Club.

Business leaders have long said the so-called "federalization" of the CNMI's immigration system will have a host of major consequences for the economy, diminishing the available alien workforce and prompting employers to compete for the small pool of foreigners the new regulations will let into the Commonwealth to work.

Grey's warning of the added hurdles federalization will impose on businesses—including high fees for applying to get a foreign employee a visa and a lengthy timeline for winning its approval—comes as de-

partments of Homeland Security and Interior officials this week met with scores of local government and private sector officials to begin talks on the impact of the new federal rules, which are due to be proposed later this year.

Local officials, Grey said, urged federal staff to consider that the Commonwealth, given its dependence on foreign labor and multinational population, is unique compared to other places in the United States and should be granted some flexibility on issues like visas.

"We're not in the same category as the mainland and they can't treat us the same or we'll have no workforce or a very little workforce," Grey said.

In an interview after the speech, Grey added the new federal immigration rules will likely confuse many business people that have to import foreign labor.

"It'll take longer and be more expensive and lead to more frustration given the timeframe they will have to deal with," Grey said. "We don't know if that's going to continue indefinitely—it could work out over time—but initially it's going to be very confusing for people."

Getting a visa for a foreign employee, he noted, will carry steep costs under a federal system that could climb as high as \$3,000 in some cases. Moreover, the visa application process alone can take up to 60 days, not including the time it takes to get the application approved. In contrast, the CNMI's current system can approve a new foreign worker's entry to the CNMI within 30 days.

Employers, he said, "will have to do more planning, more advanced planning for sure" to meet their staffing needs as a result.

However, federal officials "are listening and hearing and taking to heart what we have said" about federalization's potential economic consequences, Grey added.

Confusion over federalization, SHRM chapter president Frannie Salas said in an inter-

view, is widespread among the business community.

"A lot of the business owners don't know where to begin, where to start, who to turn to for

answers on how do they start processing paperwork for whatever positions they will have to fill," Salas said. "It's going to have a real impact."

## Miura may end up joining hearing via teleconference

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura may end up participating in Saturday's hearing in Los Angeles through a telephone conference at the Department of Corrections in Susupe.

Attorney Bruce Berline, one of Miura's three lawyers on Saipan, yesterday said they were still working on how their client could join the hearing in L.A. that was set for Saturday at 6:30am, Saipan time.

"We're working on that. I think we'll have a telephone conference, probably at DOC," Berline told *Saipan Tribune*.

The lawyer said if the teleconference pushes through at DOC, the media will not be allowed to go inside the detention facility.

Miura could have used the teleconference facility at the U.S. District Court for the NMI, but the district court is closed on weekends.

The hearing, set for Friday at 1:30pm L.A. time, is on Miura's motion to quash the arrest warrant and dismiss the extradition proceedings based on double jeopardy.

Celebrity attorney Mark Geragos, counsel for the 60-year-old Miura in L.A., filed the motion to quash.

Berline said the California government, however, has filed a motion to continue the hearing to a later date.

"The original hearing will still go forward but I'm imagining what's going to happen is

that the government's motion is going to be heard first. I don't know what's going to happen after that," Berline said.

The motion for continuance, he said, is going to be addressed during Saturday's hearing.

Last Tuesday, Miura appealed Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona's decision denying his request to allow him to post bail.

William M. Fitzgerald, one of Miura's three lawyers on Saipan, filed a notice of appeal in the Superior Court.

In the appeal, Fitzgerald said Miura is appealing to the CNMI Supreme Court judge Manglona's order denying Miura's motion for bail modification.

In a written decision issued on June 25, 2008, Manglona ruled that Miura's argument that his situation presents special circumstances that allow for bail "misses the mark."

Citing a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a case that, according to Manglona, resembles in some respects those of Miura as argued, the judge said under the federal Extradition Act, "it is for the California courts to do justice in this case based upon its substantive law and procedures, not the CNMI courts."

The State of California is seeking Miura's extradition on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing of his wife in 1981. Miura has been in jail since he was arrested at the Saipan airport in February.

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# House relaxes rules for scholars' loan repayments

By AGNES E. DONATO  
agnes\_donato@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed a bill holding off college loan payments for government scholars who are unable to find jobs because there are no government jobs available or because positions are being filled by foreign workers.

The bill, sponsored by Senate President Pete P. Reyes, passed by a 16-1 vote, despite concerns raised by the CNMI Scholarship Office that the

measure was unnecessary and unfair to other scholars who repaid their students loans.

Rep. Tina Sablan was the only House member to vote against the bill, which now heads back to the Senate for approval of the amendments made by the House.

If the bill passes into law, recipients of postsecondary education financial aid from the CNMI would be granted forbearance in the collection of their debts if they are unable to find jobs in the public or private sector due to unavailability of

government jobs, hiring freezes, reductions in force, or because positions are being filled by foreign national workers, for as long as the recipient is unemployed and actively seeking employment.

The bill also would grant forbearance to any off-island recipient during the first two years after graduation if he cannot find a job in his field of study. No interest would accrue during the period of forbearance.

The bill further would consider government scholars who have served in the military as

having satisfied the requirements to return and work in the CNMI. During debate on the House floor, Sablan proposed to delete this provision. But the House members voted down her proposal.

"Although I recognized the contributions and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, it seemed to me that accepting military service as a means to fulfill CNMI scholarship obligations amounted to a subsidy for the military, and undermined the original purpose of the

scholarship program, which is to finance higher education opportunities for our citizens and ultimately bring them back to the islands," Sablan said in a statement.

Scholarship administrator Merissa Rasa has said the bill is unnecessary because there is already a process in place for granting forbearance to scholarship or loan recipients who are unable to meet their obligations to the CNMI due to some hardship.

Rasa has also said the Scholarship Office is already struggling to hold scholarship and loan recipients accountable for their obligations to return to

the CNMI to work and or pay back what they owed. The bill, she added, would weaken the scholarship program even more if signed into law.

## Six students attend kids' convention

A six-student delegation led by chaperone Brenda B. Repeki has departed for Fukuoka, Japan, to attend the 20th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention, which will run from July 11 to 23, 2008.

The APCC, a non-profit organization, aims to promote international cooperation between children so they will grow into adults with a strong sense of their identity as "Global Citizens." This year's theme is "We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world."

The APCC, founded in 1989 by the Fukuoka Junior Chamber, hosts children from more than 30 countries/regions throughout the Asian-Pacific area. This year, Fukuoka has invited over 300 children from 46 different areas all over Asia. There are representatives from United States, China, Kiribati, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Tahiti, the Philippines, and the Maldives, to name a few.

Junior Ambassadors must demonstrate that they believe in the APCC philosophy and be able to spend about 10 days living with a foreign host family and take part in day-to-day activities. Ambassadors will learn about the different cultures represented at the convention, as well as the Japanese way of life. The delegates will also have the opportunity to share a variety of cultures, as well as presentations for the whole congregation to view and appreciate.

Each year, public and private schools are requested to submit a nominee, assigned with an alternate participant of the same sex to represent the CNMI at the annual Convention. Junior Ambassadors are selected based on the participation criteria set forth by the APCC.

This year's participants are Johnny Roger Duenas Penalosa, James Arthur Lifofoi Phillips, Katsutoshi Comia Pangelinan, Allysha Hillary Sabanal Lloren, Marika Joleen Pascua Cabay and Franory Lynn Pluhs Mesnagon, accompanied by Ms. Brenda Ann Blas Repeki. (PR)

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# Five-year plan sets goals to combat diseases



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

World Health Organization Nutrition and Physical activity officer Dr. Temo K. Waqanivalu, DPH Deputy Secretary Lynn Tenorio, and representatives of various government agencies, non-profit organizations and private business gather for a photo while holding the signed "5 year Strategic Plan partner pledge" during the culmination of the three-day meeting at the Napu room of the Pacific Islands Club yesterday. The event was hosted by the Health Promotion Council, a project initiated by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services.

By **CAROLINE LOCHABAY**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A three-day strategic planning effort to rally dedication to combating noncommunicable diseases in the CNMI ended yesterday with participants signing a document that commits them to the goals of the program.

The commitment, signed by more than 30 government agencies, private businesses, community organizations and community members, marked the completion of a five-year strategic plan that was recently formulated with the help of the World Health Organization to aid the CNMI in its efforts to minimize the prevalence of NCDs, which include cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic pulmonary disease and diabetes.

A multisectoral working group has been laboring for more than a month to draft the document that will represent the five-year strategic plan for improvement and will soon be finalized and formally acknowledged as legitimate.

Dr. Temo Waqanivalu of WHO's South Pacific Office wants the document done by September this year.

The working group responsible for the document will shepherd the plan's journey through the finalization process, after which its goals will be enacted into government policy and community programs.

Discussed throughout the planning was the need for the plan's facilitators to work to achieve environmental and lifestyle changes for CNMI residents, as well as the augmentation of existing healthcare services to aid those who are already victims of NCDs.

Plans were also drafted to institute new programs, as well as revamp existing ones, to battle the common risk factors for NCDs, which include tobacco use, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity.

The focus on NCDs prompts questions as to the driving force

behind their disturbingly high prevalence in the CNMI. According to Dr. Waqanivalu, the islands' close association with the highly-developed United States that once served to establish Saipan as a beacon of prosperity in the Pacific has

now proven to be a double-edged sword. Dr. Waqanivalu said that because of the CNMI's close association with a much-developed world, residents have been continuously exposed to an environment rife with choices, inadvertent-

ly creating a situation in which "the healthy choice is not the easiest choice." A history of foreign involvement and dietary intervention was noted to have left the islands vulnerable to the effects of their own prosperity, past and present.



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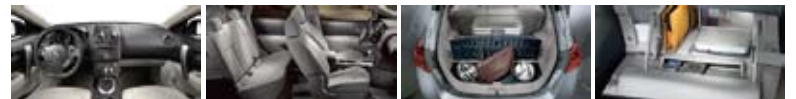
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# Early morning earthquake hits NMI

A 4.9 magnitude earthquake shook parts of the Marianas Islands yesterday morning at 3:23am. There were no immediate report of damage or injuries.

According to the Emergency Management Office, the earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 4.9 on the Richter scale and occurred at a depth of about 6.2 miles, located at latitude 16.828 degrees north and 148.094 degrees east of the Marianas region. This is about 165 miles east northeast of Anatahan and 195 miles northeast of Saipan.

According to EMO, the earthquake did not generate enough energy to call for a Pacific-wide tsunami alert.

The EMO said that one local resident called the office to

verify the quake.

"A resident called the office and asked if we had an earthquake. The [office] called me at home and then I checked it in the morning at approximately 7am,"

## LISS offers trial basis to local students

At the beginning of a new school year on Aug. 4, 2008, Ladera International School of Saipan will offer admission on a trial basis so that local students and families may see what the school has to offer.

From August 4-29, 2008, LISS will open 6 slots per grade level starting from K-4 and K-5 through 10<sup>th</sup> grade to local residents. "This trial basis will provide local students an opportunity to experience

Geophysical Seismic Technician Section supervisor Juan Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The scale showed that we had an earthquake, and the quake only happened for a few

seconds. Only one resident called yesterday and asked regarding this matter," he added.

There were also no reports of aftershocks, he said. (*Jacqueline Dela Cruz*)

LISS' regular school year program during the time they are still on vacation," stated Wayne Pangelinan, LISS Director.

"The success of our summer programs prompted us to offer more opportunities during the long summer breaks from the public schools. We feel that having alternative learning activities for students during the breaks will only enhance their academics when returning to their schools or when

enrolling with LISS," added Pangelinan.

LISS also announces the Quantum Learning (Leadership Program) and Science Camp programs that will take place between July 28 and Aug. 17 this year. Enrollment for local students is open. Families interested in any of these opportunities should contact the school at 288-2006 for space reservations. (*Caroline Lochabay*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 18, 2000

### Gov't debts to Fund balloon to \$43 million

Hopes by the NMI Retirement Fund to recover over \$43 million owed by the government in unpaid contributions and other debts continue to dim as the House Ways and Means Committee has yet to commit on how to meet the mounting financial obligations. Committee chair Rep. Antonio M. Camacho said a decision will have to come at the end of a series of budget hearings being conducted by lawmakers on the FY 2001 spending proposal from the governor.

### USDA agrees to guarantee home loans

Good news for local families who want to have a home of their own. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office has agreed to guarantee home loans availed by low- or moderate-income families living on Saipan through the local branch of Bank of Hawaii. Steven R. Chapman, acting state director of the federal agency for Hawaii and the Western Pacific Region, broke the good news to Rep. William S. Torres who visited the office in Hilo last month in an effort to bring the program to the CNMI.

### Domestic terminals witness growth in passenger traffic

Overall passenger traffic in three domestic air transport terminals in the Northern Marianas edged up 12 percent during the period covering October 1999 to May 2000, according to a report obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Ironically, aircraft landing on Saipan, Tinian and Rota air transport facilities fell 22 percent to 17,570 in the first eight months of Fiscal Year 2000 from 17,592 in the same period last year.

July 18, 2001

### NAP fears budget shortfall

Projected funding deficit for FY 2001 threatens the monthly allotment of over 150 food stamp recipients due to the reported increase in the total number of program participants. The Division of Nutrition Assistance Program disclosed that the number of eligible food stamp recipients has been increasing by an average of one percent each month.

### CUC races with time for better treatment facility

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is running against time to meet the deadline set for the construction of a better wastewater treatment facility. The US Environmental Protection Agency requires the utilities company to upgrade the Agingan facility within four years after it was allowed to operate the treatment plant through an administrative order dated November 1, 1999.

### Gov't saves \$48M from austerity program

Put on the defensive by alleged negative perception toward the Tenorio administration's austerity program, the Public Information and Protocol Office issued a statement yesterday, claiming that the program actually saved the government \$48 million in operating expenses without laying off workers or reducing hours of services. The statement, prepared by Bob Shreck of the Department of Finance, stressed that a simple glance at the revenue and expense figures would show that the government had no choice in the matter.

July 18, 2002

### Consumers to suffer from new taxes

The House of Representatives assured the passage this Friday of three new tax bills but businessmen warned that, besides adding to the cost of doing business, the additional burden would be shouldered mostly by consumers. This was the overall sentiment of businessmen toward the planned passage of three new tax bills, on whose fate the \$213 million Fiscal Year 2003 budget hinges.

### Saipan's PCBs enter Nevada

Several tons of concentrated PCBs passed through Nevada's Customs officers Monday (Tuesday, local time) and were on their way to a regulated landfill in Beatty town at the Silver State. Thus said John Trela, the Environmental Chemical Corporation's project manager at the PCB treatment site in Tanapag. The ECC is the contractor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the treatment of over 20,000 tons of soil that were stockpiled in Tanapag.

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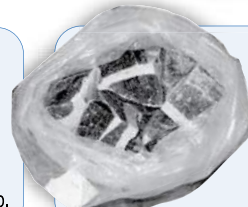
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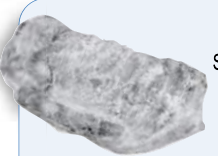
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# Opinion

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## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### It leaves a bad taste

This isn't the only developed country to have experienced serious problems with food contamination. We've just been extraordinarily lackadaisical when it comes to doing something about it. A new federal report on the common-sense steps taken by Japan, Canada, Ireland and several other nations provides a practical guide to food safety. The only question remaining is: What's taking the United States so long to follow it?

The report, released this week by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, outlines steps that aren't all about giant government bureaucracies. Rather, they're workable for industry and more efficient at using limited resources. Foremost among them is the sensible creation of one agency to oversee food safety, as opposed to the bifurcated U.S. system in which the Department of Agriculture oversees meat and poultry, and the Food and Drug Administration takes charge of most other foods.

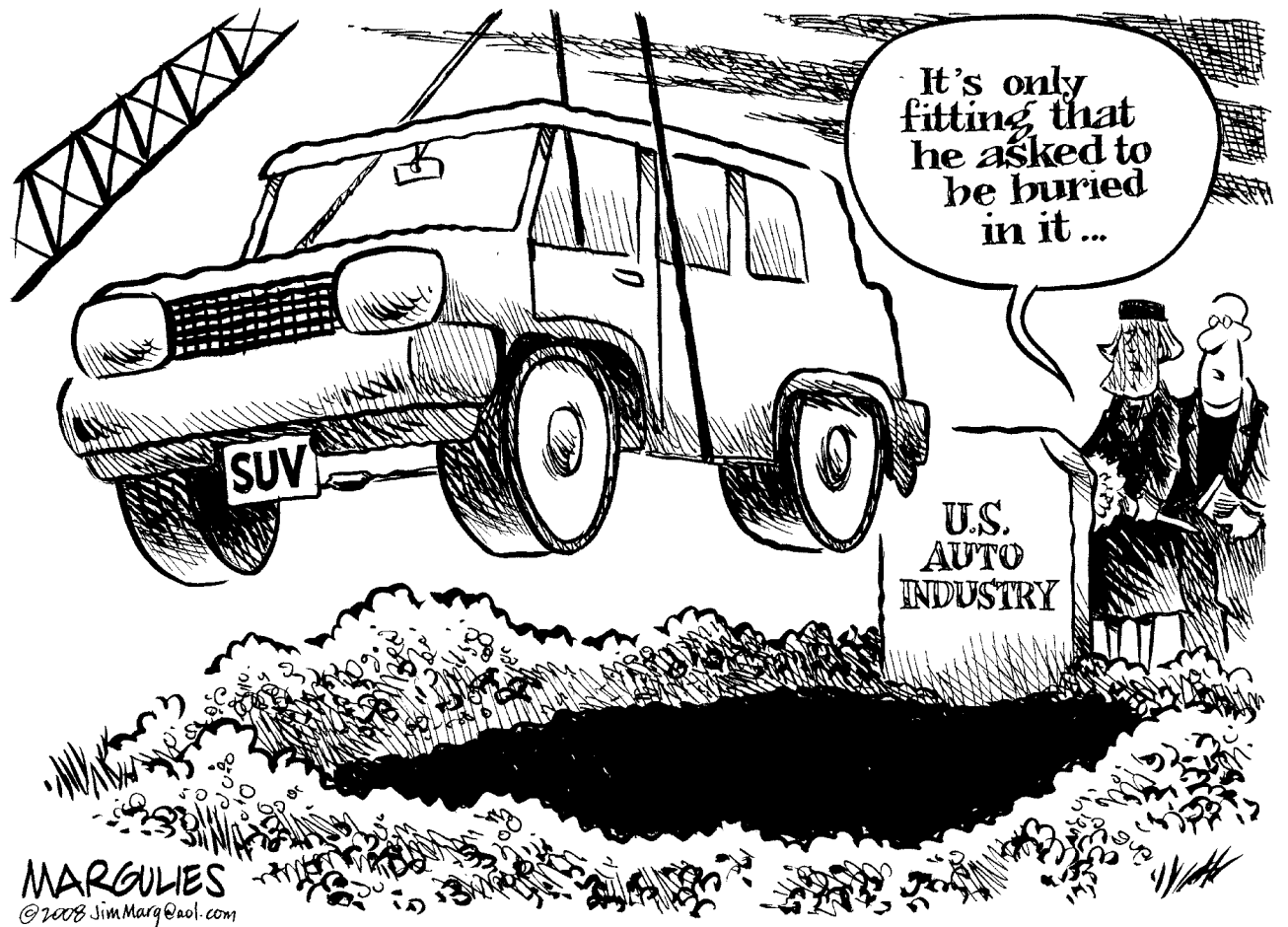
Unlike the USDA and the FDA, these foreign agencies have the power to recall dangerous foodstuffs, as well as to require producers to recall their products when there is reason to believe they might be unsafe. In addition, the agencies responsible for protecting consumers don't dilute their mission by also promoting the industry. The USDA's dual goal of inspecting meat and protecting the interests of the cattle industry is the most likely reason the agency does no more than desultory testing and is trying to stop one beef producer that wants to ratchet up its safety standards.

These countries have a "farm to table" policy in which safety laws cover every stage of food production, from field to shipper to processor and so forth. They put most of the responsibility for food safety on the producers, require importers to pay for the disposal of bad food and focus their inspections on foods that carry the greatest risk of contamination. (Lettuce and tomatoes, anyone?)

In the European Union, food is tracked from farm to consumer through a "one step forward, one step back" system: At each stage, the company shipping or handling the food must know both its supplier and its customer. The lack of such a tracking system is part of why the FDA has been unable to locate the source of the salmonella outbreak that has sickened more than 1,100 people in this country in the last couple of months.

Meanwhile, the FDA hasn't carried out the food protection plan it announced last year, which included focusing its resources on the highest risks, and only recently informed Congress how much money is needed to do this. The tightening of food-safety policies in other countries puts our laggardly approach to shame.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



## This week's news

If you followed the news this week, you'll know that Big Economic Thoughts are in order.

Well, sorry. I'm thinking about this instead: There is a blind old man who lives in a run-down trailer near a distant, spooky, backwoods swamp.

He's the father of a pal of mine, one of the first folks I met after I got out of the Navy. Back then, I lied to my girlfriend (imagine that), and told her I'd get a real job and become a suitably successful corporate type.

After all, she had social aspirations.

But I didn't.

My job was, basically, airport bum. I flew traffic reporting for AM radio stations and gave flight lessons to dentists and housewives. On the side I wrote financial forecasting computer models, and counted a major insurance company among my clients, but I hid this fact from my girlfriend, since it would only have encouraged her aspirations.

When it came to civilian aviation, I was clueless. Fortunately, I met a tradesman on the airport who had a small shop. He was an avionics (aircraft electronics) expert; he used to fix F-4 fighters in the Navy. His good advice and moral support were valuable as I sought to survive in the local industry.

He was from a poor, and I mean dirt-poor, background. He grew up on a hardscrabble ranch, but the family lost that since. He was one of the best read, smartest, and most capable people I've ever known, and I've known a lot of them. No college for him; the family couldn't afford it.

Soon, off I went into the world. But we kept in touch. Over the years, and, well, decades, he'd talk of his dad, who, to me, loomed like a figure in a country song ballad. Poor, but hard working. Economically doomed, but always resourceful. Big, tough, a good fighter who wouldn't take crap from a stranger, or anybody in a necktie, but fair and kind-hearted. A man so poor, he'd have to live by his wits forever, and raise a family on them, too. The mother had died young. This was never related to me in whining tones, but, instead, over the years, in matter-of-fact anecdotes as we'd swap tales about sundry subjects.

I've covered a lot of turf since those days. Enough that, a couple of years ago, I was passing through the deep southern U.S., and, somewhere between Detroit, Miami, and Saipan, I had two days of free time. I rented a car, and wound up in the remote, piney-woods south. It took me three hours to find the trailer in those backwoods roads.

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at [TropicalEd.com](http://TropicalEd.com) and [Saipan-Blog.com](http://Saipan-Blog.com).



And there he was, after all those decades of tales and anecdotes: The old man.

He was, from diabetes, blind. He lived in a steamy, dilapidated trailer by a swamp. Roaches swarmed all over the place. He sat, shirtless, in the collapsed remnants of a cheap reclining armchair. That squalor trumps much of what I've seen in the Third World.

The old man had been in the Navy for a hitch. He told me all about it. Besides a couple of old medals and ribbons, that man had nothing. I don't mean he was a miser with CDs in the bank. I mean he probably has about 30 dollars to his name.

The son, having lost his business, and with nothing to fall back on, is every bit as poor as the old man.

I ascertained that the old man spends his days listening to the radio. He has a little boom box. He listens to talk shows and preachers; any voices, I guess, to fill the vacuum. When it isn't too hot or too rainy, they take him to a plastic chair in the stretch of mud behind his trailer so he can get some fresh air until the mosquitoes drive him back inside.

I am in the habit of ordering CDs of old radio shows for the old man. They keep him company. He rations the listening, so as to make them last.

But the last CD was defective. His son called me, as I sat on the other side of the world, fully 10 time zones away, saying that just before a mystery show reached its conclusion, the CD became garbled. The old man had been listening to four consecutive episodes on four consecutive days, looking forward to the unraveling of the whodunit on the fifth day, and, crunch, a messed-up CD threw a wrench in the works. Neither father nor son has a credit card, computer, or Internet connection; they have no idea how to order another CD.

So the first item on my day's agenda is thus set. I'll ignore the news today, it will just get in the way of the truth.



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# The Pew Charitable Trusts: Committed to ocean conservation

By JAY NELSON

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Editor's Note: Jay Nelson is director of the Pew Environment Group's Global Ocean Legacy, a project to protect some of the world's most spectacular marine environments.*

Considerable recent press has been devoted to plans to establish a world-class marine park in the waters around the three northernmost Mariana Islands – Asuncion, Maug and Uracus. Letters, editorials and opinions have focused on both the benefits of the idea and on the non-profit organization, the Pew Charitable Trusts, which believes such a program would not only benefit the Mariana's marine environment and economy, but would also greatly enhance the reputation of the Mariana Islands as an environmentally friendly tourist destination.

The participation of people in CNMI in this very public discussion has been useful and healthy and will hopefully continue.

Worldwide, the oceans and their marvelous ecosystems are in trouble from global warming, pollution, overfishing and a host of other problems. But there are some places, like the Mariana Islands, where people still have a chance to preserve their cultural heritage and leave a wonderful environmental legacy for their children, while at the same time creating jobs and revenue that can improve the local standard of living.

Any new idea, however, is bound to stir interest and questions. So what of the Pew Charitable Trusts itself?

Pew, through its environmental arm, the Pew Environment Group, has launched a global effort to improve scientific understanding of the oceans, prevent the continued decline of fisheries to the benefit both fish and fishermen, and promote the preservation of particularly spectacular locations that have yet to suffer the devastating impacts of much of the world's marine environment.

Our efforts to encourage the establishment of a marine park in the Marianas are very much in keeping with our work around the world. Pew is an independent, non-profit organization governed by the same set of U.S. laws that apply to other charitable or non-profit groups, such as the Red Cross. We operate completely independent

of government and business, although we try and work with both whenever possible. Moreover, as a non-profit, we make no money from our charitable work.

Pew has been a leader in advancing policies that improve lives, in Philadelphia where it is based, and throughout the world. Indeed, we are one of the most well-known, independent, non-profit organizations in the United States, running programs relating to education, culture, public health, the arts and the environment, among others. Our polling and information work is considered to be amongst the highest quality and most influential of its kind in the world.

For two decades the Pew Environment Group has been a major force in promoting sound conservation policies in the United States and, in recent years, internationally. The Environment Group is staffed by respected senior scientists, attorneys and policy specialists, all of whom have had significant prior experience in nonprofit advocacy, government and the private sector.

The Pew Environment Group focuses on reducing the scope and severity of three major global environmental problems: dramatic changes to the Earth's climate caused by the increasing concentration of global warming pollution in the atmosphere; erosion of large wilderness ecosystems that contain many of the world's rapidly vanishing plants and animals; and damage to the world's marine environment.

What led us to our work in the Mariana Islands was a number of factors. First, the environment in the waters around the northernmost islands has been little impacted by fishing or other extractive activities and is relatively healthy, containing some of the world's most unique geological features and ecology. Second, there is virtually no fishing in this area because it is so remote, and has never had the concentration of high-value fish that would make it a productive commercial fishing area. Third, it contains a portion of the world's deepest marine canyon and a host of native species, plants and other marine organisms that make it ecologically unique. And fourth, establishment of a marine park would actually benefit CNMI's economy through increased tourism and government support, in addition to generating jobs and revenue.

In the Mariana Islands, as in other areas of world where we are

encouraging the establishment of marine reserves, we work with governments and the public to analyze the potential environmental and economic benefits of protecting these remarkable places.

The area being proposed for protection in CNMI is a spectacular complex of coral reefs, undersea volcanoes and deep ocean waters along a portion of the famed Mariana Trench. We believe this area will best serve CNMI both economically and culturally if it is conserved for education and research, for tourism and for future generations. We have sought to collect and disseminate information on the significance of this area and to bring this information to the attention of federal and local officials, as well as to better inform the people of the Mariana Islands about the area's natural values.

As part of our assessment of what a marine monument might mean to CNMI, three months ago we asked a respected economist at the University of Guam, Dr. Tom Iverson, to study the potential costs and benefits of such a designation. Dr. Iverson calculated that a marine monument would produce up to 400 new jobs and annually generate \$10 million in new spending and \$14 million in sales. He identified a number of potential benefits that would be created from a monument, many of which are related to the visitor industry and tourism marketing.

The establishment of parks or wildlife reserves, either on land or in the sea, is often a controversial process. There are always some individuals who do not believe that special natural areas should be protected from activities such as industrial fishing, mining, logging, and that these areas offer more value to people if their resources can be extracted for commercial gain. History, however, has generally proven this to not be true. The great parks of the world, places like Yellowstone or Yosemite in the western United States, or the spectacular game parks of Africa, provide far more benefit to people as parks than they ever would have if left unprotected. Protecting the waters around the three northernmost islands as a marine park will create much greater economic value for CMNI than commercial fishing or other extractive activities are every likely to produce. And at the same time, one of the world's most spectacular oceans areas will be protected for the culture and the people of the Marianas and their children and grandchildren as well as for the rest of the world.

See THE PEW on Page 14

## China on display V

These series of reflections this week on China begs the child's simple query: So what? What has the cost of rice in China anything to do with the making of a living and the living of a life in the CNMI? Is there anything wise and relevant from China's debut into the world stage this August that is worth our bother? And if there is, who cares?

Though our stream of consciousness narrative has not been bereft of relevant insights, let me reframe the questions in the context of this week's dialogue between the local administration and business concerns with federal government officials writing the regulations pursuant to the recent federalization bill enacted by the U.S. Congress.

The following quote is from the online edition of one of our local dailies. We focus on the substance rather than the attribution of source, which I evidently failed to note: *"Business leaders have long said federalization could harm the local economy, which is largely dependent on alien labor; by limiting the number of foreign workers that can be brought into the Commonwealth and stifle foreign investment by imposing strict rules on investor visas."*

Standardization of weights and measures was an early feature of the Han Dynasty. Common characters unified the varied dialects. Large-scale economy in the Far East extending into the Silk Trade Road toward Rome was made possible in the same way as the coins out of Lydia (Asia Minor) and the alphabet of the Phoenicians (precursors to the Greeks and the Romans) were civilizing tools in the Mediterranean and Levant.

Federalization of CNMI immigration and labor in the U.S. context is economic standardization. The weakness of the original 13 colonies was not political wimpy-ness but the absence of a national economic design and SOPs. Federalization had not hampered the rugged individualism of the Northeast, nor did it water down the cultural parochialism of the Deep South; it did not inhibit commerce and industry in the Rust Belt, nor did it derail the march west of the Plains' methodical common sense; it did not alienate MexTex' aspirations, nor drenched the heart and soul of Pacific Ecotopians.

The absence of commonality to federal standards on immigration and labor in the Commonwealth, however, has made us depend on being the exception, requiring special favors, demanding entitlement and preferential treatment. We are at once pariahs and prima donnas in Uncle Sam's budget.

In any economic system, three processes are at play. Founda-

tional is the utilization of resources—natural, human and technological. The other two are production of goods and services and the distribution of the same. A glance at the lagoon on Saipan shows how we abused natural capital in the last four decades. Local human resource deteriorated into protection of privileges. Abusing alien labor was taken for granted.

Dependence on alien labor, for as long as it stays alien, is not a plus in our local economy, though exploiting it was profitable. In fact, the practice is a modern form of servitude. When I first came to the CNMI in 1989 to help recruit personnel, I was stunned at the living conditions of contract workers. DC Rep. Juan Babauta paid dearly for airing out this dirty laundry. Ten years later, as director of the United Methodist Church's Marianas Resource Center in Oleai, I became familiar with the case of a nanny and her government functionary employer.

The nanny came as an unregulated contracted labor, a privilege shared with farmers. Her husband came in as a construction worker, and remained a farm hand. Both were totally at the mercy of their employer. In this particular case, the over 40-year-old nanny, already mother to nine children back in Pea Eye, was asleep in her servant's quarters when the inebriated boss staggered in one early morning and tried to insert a part of his private anatomy into the sleeping nanny's mouth.

She resisted the intrusion and made a ruckus of it. The following day, the wife told her that she was no longer to do her toilet in the house's restrooms but to go to the wooded area behind the house to perform her needed functions. More than the blatant breach of employment contract, she bears the deep scar of violated human dignity. Doubly tragic is the fact that this was not an isolated case. The nature of violations against imported contract labor was not uncommon, is well documented, and alas, continues to this day.

We will not bother to go into the pampered native personnel in the public sector, a hotbed of nepotism and corruption, well publicized by others. China's economic development zones insisted on joint ventures and partnerships, a provision though hardly adhered to that is required in capital investments in the CNMI. A former Red Guard and significant other to a Red Army General moved to the CNMI early on because the General was caught misusing SEZ funds and remains incarcerated in penal confinement. A local pundit quips that local crooks are never prosecuted, they just keep getting re-elected.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Nor do we want to mention our neglect of technology. Vocational training and trade skills are not a high PSS priority, Tony Pellegrino's bewailing notwithstanding. I do thank the Chinese farmers for propagating *kailan* (Chinese broccoli), and Walt FJ Goodridge for recognizing *malunggay* and other iron-rich veggies in the Pinoy repertoire of backyard greens. Lino Olopai's shifting of his navigational skills to land-based food productivity might just radically reduce our food chain dependence on Oakland and Baltimore seaports.

A Chinese sociological study reveals that 20 percent participation of the local population in a designated special economic zone is the best that can be expected, which even in their eyes is not good enough since the remaining 80 percent are left in the cold. We do not fare better. The moral contradiction in our time is the economic cleavage between the 15 percent who control assets and resources against the 85 percent who rely on the crumbs from under the well-off tables!

The cultural ethos of significant individual engagement resulting in the common good is missing in the Chinese equation but the social net in place to ensure the broadest protection of individual welfare is there. Social contract, a covenant of mutual responsibility and interdependence, ironically prevails in secular socialist states more than its occurrence in supposedly charitable Christian nations.






Confucian paternalism worked for China and Uncle Sam's martial hierarchy guided post-WWII organizational systems. The modern world is requiring a *One World, One Dream* orientation in economics, politics and culture. China is lifting itself up for display on the global stage—shaken Sichuan and tremulous Tibet notwithstanding. This may just be a good permission-giving stance for others, like the CNMI, to quit posturing and whimpering, and start getting a life.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼76

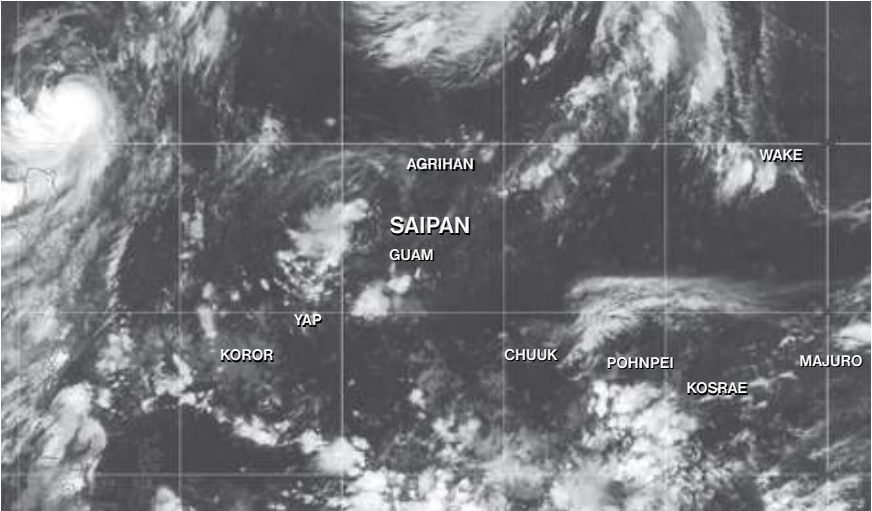
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲83 ▼76
London	Cloudy	▲72 ▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼81
New York	Hot	▲94 ▼76
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲91 ▼79
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲69 ▼60
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲78 ▼50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70 ▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼77
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲92 ▼73

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:55AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:07PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:17PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 2:00AM, THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2008**  
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Lower-level convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers from 22N to 25N between 131E and 136E. This area is in the northwest corner of the discussion area and southeast of Okinawa. Lower-level convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 75 miles of a line from 5N132E to 10N132E. This area is near and west of Palau. An area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is located within 70 miles of a line from 16N140E to 18N143E. This area is northwest of Guam. A surface trough running from about 25N152E to 18N153E to 9N145E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms about 500 miles east of the trough west of Wake Island from about 21N to 25N. Scattered showers are also being produced within about 100 miles of the trough from 20N154E to 12N147E. The area of scattered showers continues southwest from 12N147E southeast of Guam to end just east of Yap. Patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located south of 10N to the equator from about 138E to 168E. These showers are being caused by a trough running from EQ157E to 7N150E to 9N146E and by trade wind convergence coupled with upper-level divergence.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:56AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:56AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:56AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:56AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:57AM	6:50 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:53PM	5:31AM
Saturday	7:36PM	6:25AM
Sunday	8:16PM	7:17AM
Monday	8:54PM	8:09AM
Tuesday	9:31PM	9:00AM

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  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>Saipan-Rota</b> CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	<b>Rota-Saipan</b> CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
<b>Saipan-Guam</b> CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>Guam-Saipan</b> CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Narita</b> NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	<b>Narita-Saipan</b> NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b> NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	<b>Osaka-Saipan</b> NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b> NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b> NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>Saipan-Seoul</b> OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	<b>Seoul-Saipan</b> OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
<b>Saipan-Busan</b> OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	<b>Busan-Saipan</b> OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
<b>Guam-Manila</b> CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	<b>Manila-Guam</b> CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
<b>Saipan-Guanzhou</b> CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	<b>Guanzhou-Saipan</b> CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Hongkong</b> CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	<b>Hongkong-Guam</b> CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
<b>Guam-Rota</b> CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	<b>Rota-Guam</b> CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Questionable loans

Saipan of late has become an extraordinary target-rich environment for political pundits, critics of the government, and those who deplore total lack of fiduciary common sense. In fact, it becomes increasingly more difficult to focus on any single issue when there is such a blizzard of fiduciary nonsense and unethical practices assaulting us daily.

So what particular issue prompted this letter when such far better writers as Ed Propst, Anthony Pelligrino, and Tina Sablan have touched on the major underlying topics? A recent independent audit by Deloitte and Touche reveals a whopping government deficit of \$218 million, with \$30 million credited to the current Administration's budget (or lack of one) during the last fiscal year. It's glaringly obvious that the government "cut-backs" appear to be nothing more than window dressing.

To make matters even more bizarre and incomprehensible, the Governor has plans to borrow an unknown amount of money from a bank in Rhode Island; this is on the fast track with the government set to roll out the red carpet and put fresh ink to the loan papers during the bank's earliest visit to the CNMI. Why does this make me shiver with fear? First, the loan papers were scheduled to be signed before the government obtained any input from its citizens. This fait accompli by an administration with an abysmal fiduciary record reeks of shady deal, shoved down the collective gullet of the CNMI population, without so much as a whisper of citizen input. Perhaps this is representative of why Capital Hill is so ardently opposed to such a basic Democratic principle as "open government"... it allows them to dysfunction in secret, while passing laws, bills, and deficit-increasing loans that are spurious at best and—more likely—harmful to the people of the CNMI (Thank you Tina for working unceasingly against this irresponsible and unethical practice). Oops...I've digressed from my topic. Re-

turning to the Governor's loan: in a feeble, last-ditch attempt to bail himself out of his own disastrous economic mismanagement, his is simply borrowing more money. Thanks to local radio talk show host Harry Blalock, we now are painfully aware of CUC's fate to become another victim of bankruptcy. Likely, CUC is merely first in line of a number of government-run entities that will soon follow suit (for example, CPA).

Now comes the question: What can the Governor use for collateral when the government is wholly mismanaged, very deeply in debt, and facing a serious crisis of bankruptcy: His house? Mining rights to Pagan? Fruit flies? Well, what does Rhode Island want? For years the "most little state in the Union" wants to unshackle itself from that moniker and become bigger. And what can the CNMI offer for its collateral: LAND. Yep...good ol' CNMI land. The government's effort to bail out the CNMI, and to keep the Feds at bay, is to use the

CNMI as collateral, default on the loan (as we know it must) and become a ward of Rhode Island, thus making CNMI the CNMRI (Commonwealth of Northern Rhode Island). Rhode Island will then infuse capital into the CNMRI, manage it as a business and Ben gets to blow raspberries at Feds while getting bailed out by the State of Rhode Island. A win-win situation.

Hmm...maybe I'm getting too cynical about the workings of this government. On the other hand, maybe the government has given us all reasons to be wary of any deals (CUC being a timely example).

Oh, one other thought: The Feds are here. Don't bite the hand that feeds you. Common sense dictates that we should work in cooperation with the Feds, not wage war with them. Why do the vast majority of the people see this; yet, our leaders are blind to this concept?

**Bill Weiss**  
Puerto Rico, Saipan

### EAP Corporation dba Filtrade Gen. Construction

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**MASON  
CARPENTER  
BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER  
COMMERCIAL CLEANER  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.**

**Please contact 287-6241 or 234-6241  
(Local or IR applicants preferred)**



**Procurement And Supply  
CNMI Government**



### INVITATION TO BID

**ITB NO.: ITB08-DPS-074**

Submission/Opening Date: July 29, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

### "PURCHASE OF POLICE UNIFORMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA  
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, P&S



## Executive Home for Lease

- 4 Bedrooms / 3 Baths
- +/- 2,500 sq ft
- 4,250 sq/m in peaceful Papago
- Beautiful View
- Modern Kitchen
- Housekeepers Quarters
- 25 KW Generator
- 5,000 gal Water Tank

**\$1,700** per month **483-3884**

For more information, pls. call:



## SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

# Back from Lease and READY TO SELL!

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SAVINGS!**



**2008 Yaris**  
Miles: 2,790  
Color: Silver  
License no.: ADU-521  
**ONLY  
\$14,599**

Year	Toyota	Mileage	Color	License #	Price
2007	Camry LE	18,883	Green	ACF-345	\$18,499
2007	Camry LE	17,084	White	ACE-146	\$18,499
2006	Sienna CE	58,354	White	ACE-605	\$17,999
2006	Sienna LE	55,992	White	ADS-692	\$17,999
2006	Sienna CE	47,027	Silver	ACE-526	\$17,999
2006	Prius	19,797	White	ACC-207	\$19,299
2006	Prius	24,511	White	ACC-217	\$19,299
2006	Prius	40,506	White	ACC-197	\$19,299
2006	Prius	20,009	White	ACC-177	\$19,299
2006	Prius	11,684	White	ACC-167	\$19,299
2006	RAV4	28,587	White	ACC-187	\$17,999

### 2006 Corolla CE

Miles: 22,771  
Color: White  
License no.: ACJ-065  
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\$12,999**



\*models not exactly as shown. See dealer for details.



### MICROL CORPORATION

Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose  
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | [www.microlsaipan.com](http://www.microlsaipan.com)





Letter to the Editor

Kudos to Tony

I would like to thank Mr. Tony Pellegrino for taking a big step toward reducing our unemployment among resident workers. Mr. Pellegrino is a successful businessman who started the Marianas Trades Institute, which aims at training residents in vocational trades such as carpentry, electrical work, plumbing, and other skills. Mr. Pellegrino is unselfishly funding this school with his own money to allow us to rely more on resident workers than non-resident workers. He is putting his money where his mouth is. The increase in the minimum wage will also entice more residents to work in the private sector. It's about time, because we rely too heavily on foreign workers. Currently only 20-30 percent local hire is required for private businesses. The more residents we have working, the more money stays here in the CNMI. This also means that less money will be sent overseas. We need more businessmen like Pellegrino. He is investing in the CNMI residents. Kudos to you and best wishes on the Marianas Trades Institute.

Jesse Torres  
Kagman, Saipan

THE PEW

From Page 11

Quite simply, we have approached the Mariana Islands as part of our overall mission to protect and conserve natural resources. In doing so, we seek to create a healthier and more sustainable environment for both people and nature. Our goal for the CNMI is to be a constructive advocate for an environmental opportunity that will not only benefit the local and global marine environment, but also the people who live here.

The decision on whether or not to designate a monument can only be made by government. If a marine monument is established, Pew will have no role in its management, and receive no compensation or benefit other than the satisfaction of knowing that a portion of the world's marine heritage is protected for future generations, while at the same time bringing certain economic benefits to local people.

Designation of an internationally recognized national-park-of-the-sea in the waters around the three northernmost islands of the Marianas will protect a portion of one of the world's premier marine ecosystems. It also will focus favorable global attention on the Mariana Islands, promote local tourism—including ecotourism—and establish CNMI's reputation as a global leader in marine conservation. As one of 15 protected areas within the U.S. National Marine Sanctuary Program, CNMI also would be able to take advantage of federal dollars devoted to public education and conservation. We believe this is one of those fortunate circumstances where conservation and economic development can work together for the benefit of both.

We encourage you to investigate this opportunity for yourself and look closely at its cultural and economic benefits. We look forward to continuing to work with the business community, your elected leaders and the public on this proposal.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 505301  
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.,  
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way  
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950  
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801  
FAX: (670) 234-1251  
  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
ARRIVAL VENTURES LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ARRIVAL VENTURES LTD.,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
REPUBLIC OF NAURU FINANCE  
CORPORATION,  
REPUBLIC OF NAURU  
NAURU CORPORATION (GUAM),  
NAURU PHOSPHATE ROYALTIES TRUST,  
NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION AND DOES  
1-5 Inclusive,  
Defendants.

CIVIL CASE  
NO. 08-0175

SUMMONS BY  
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:  
REPUBLIC OF NAURU FINANCE CORPORATION  
REPUBLIC OF NAURU  
NAURU CORPORATION (GUAM)  
NAURU PHOSPHATE ROYALTIES TRUST  
NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION  
DOES 1-5 INCLUSIVE  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to  
file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a  
copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30)  
days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to  
deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices  
of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301,  
First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wi-  
schira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as  
practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the  
Clerk of Courts for filing.  
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the  
Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP  
96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and  
sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is  
not necessary for you to appear personally until further  
notice.  
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this  
Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you  
for the relief in the complaint.  
  
By order of this Court.  
  
Clerk of Courts  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
  
Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2008.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 505301  
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.,  
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way  
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950  
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801  
FAX: (670) 234-1251

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the )  
Adoption of ) FCD-AD  
HUANBO WANG, ) CIVIL ACTION  
a minor child, ) NO. 08-0373  
By, )  
EBENEZER T. TETTEH, ) NOTICE OF  
Petitioner. ) HEARING

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS  
Notice is hereby given that Ebenezer T. Tet-  
teh has filed a verified Petition for the adoption of  
minor child Huatibo Wang in the Common-  
wealth Superior Court. The original petition is  
available for review at the Office of the Clerk of  
Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the  
Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of  
Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor  
San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wi-  
schira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of  
the Northern Mariana Islands.  
A hearing on the above-entitled matter will  
be held on July 28, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Su-  
perior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of  
the Northern Mariana Islands.  
  
Dated this 8th day of July, 2008.  
  
/s/ Clerk of Court

Edwin & Laureen Fujihira  
P.O. Box 7907, SVRB  
Saipan, MP 96950

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of )  
The Petition for the ) FCD CN  
Change of Name of: ) CIVIL ACTION  
 ) NO. 08-0376  
 )  
EDWIN FUJIHIRA and )  
LAUREEN DELA CRUZ ) NOTICE  
FUJIHIRA, ) OF HEARING  
Petitioners. )  
 )

Notice is hereby given that the above-  
entitled matter is set for a hearing in July  
28, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom  
205A, before the Associate Judge  
Kenneth L. Govendo.  
  
Dated this 9th day of July, 2008.  
  
Bernadita Sablan  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

TORRES BROTHERS, LLC  
Vincent DLG. Torres, Esq.  
Attorneys at Law  
P.O. Box 501856  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Bank of Guam Building, Third Floor  
Tel.: (670) 233-5503/4/6  
Fax: (670) 233-5510  
  
Attorneys for Petitioners,  
Moses I. And Maria M. Sibetang

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ) FCD-AD  
ADOPTION OF: ) CIVIL ACTION  
VANCE MOSES POLYCARP ) NO. 08-0397  
MANIBUSAN SIBETANG, )  
Minor Child, )  
By ) NOTICE OF  
MOSES I. SIBETANG AND MARIA M. ) HEARING  
SIBETANG, )  
Petitioners. )

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for  
Adoption for the above-named minor child by  
MOSES I. SIBETANG AND MARIA M. SIBETANG,  
("Petitioners"), was filed with the above-entitled  
Honorable Court and is open for review at the  
office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe,  
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Maria-  
na Islands.  
A HEARING of said Petition for Adoption will  
be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at  
Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, CNMI,  
before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on  
the 4th day of August, 2008, at 1:30 P.M. or as  
soon as thereafter.  
  
CLERK OF COURT  
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the  
Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
to be held on Friday, July 18, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the  
Morgen Building, Suite #107; Saipan, MP.  
The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES  
■ Call to Order  
■ Roll Call  
■ Adoption of Agenda  
■ Adoption of Minutes  
II CONSULTANT REPORTS  
■ Investment Consultant Reports  
• Performance Reports – June 20, 2008  
■ Loan Administrator Reports  
• Status Reports – Recommendations/Collections  
■ Legal Counsel Reports\*  
• APLE 501  
■ Board Consultant Reports  
III CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
■ Office Space Matters  
IV OLD BUSINESS  
■ Tinian Public Market  
V NEW BUSINESS  
VI EXECUTIVE SESSION  
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be  
required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed  
privileged and confidential.  
VII MISCELLANEOUS  
VIII ADJOURNMENT

\* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive  
Session in its entirety.  
  
In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to  
the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee  
governing body.  
  
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral  
testimony on the above agenda items.  
  
/s/ Alvaro A. Santos  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

TEACHING POSITION

■ MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

■ BA/BS IS REQUIRED

Please submit application with transcripts to the  
school office or by email to dalejsis@yahoo.com



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY  
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS  
FOR  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional  
qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services  
for the Rota International Airport Runway Phase II project, Northern Mariana  
Islands.  
  
At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should  
address the areas generally described below:  
  
1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and  
especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;  
  
2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole  
or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);  
  
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services  
promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;  
  
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience  
and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and  
competence; and  
  
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of  
principal, if applicable.  
  
Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their  
statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., August 15, 2008.**  
  
Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and  
completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.  
  
All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA  
reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for  
any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would in its best interest.  
  
Submit the Statement of Qualification to:  
Acting Executive Director  
Commonwealth Ports Authority  
PO Box 501055  
Saipan, MP 96950-1055  
  
/s/ Lee C. Cabrera  
Acting Executive Director  
July 16, 2008



## 'Everything is broken'

Most everything in the CNMI seems to be broken or on the edge of being broken. With the exception of the power plant in Puerto Rico (run by a private corporation, duh) which runs 24/7 (unfortunately, spewing pollution), most of CUC's power plants are broken. The airport has two standby generators, both broken. The governor declared the Ports Authority broken and took it over (likewise with CUC) only to discover that, yup, it was broken. La Fiesta deal? Broken. Retirement Fund? Broken. Tax and Rev? Broken (can't collect taxes, can't mail me—and many others—stimulus check). Immigration? Broken, long time. Any system that puts a governor in office with 27 percent of the vote? What else, broken. Tourism? Broken. Business sector, especially real estate? Broken, dead broke. PSS and NMC?

*Broken lines, broken strings,  
Broken threads, broken springs,  
Broken idols, broken heads,  
People sleeping in broken beds.  
Ain't no use jiving  
Ain't no use joking  
Everything is broken.*

*Broke bottles, broken plates,  
Broken switches, broken gates  
Broken dishes, broken parts,*

*Streets are filled with broken  
hearts.  
Broken words never  
mean to be spoken,  
Everything is broken.*

*Broken cutters, broken saws,  
Broken buckles, broken laws,  
Broken bodies, broken bones,  
Broken voices on broken phones.  
Take a deep breath, feel like*

Brokenish. Islandwide, 24-hour, drinkable water system promised by every politician these many years? Broken, these many years. Public works? Broken—plenty junk cars, filthy streets, missing or damaged street signs, busted roads. Promises by our politicians? You know damn well, BROKEN. Affordable health care? Broken. Our bank accounts? Broken. The public toilet facility at Micro Beach, which I regard as emblematic of our broken island? You got it: Broken and falling into the sea, along with the concrete jogging path. As Yeats, the great Irish poet put it: "Thing fall apart: the center cannot hold."

Surely Bob Dylan had Saipan in mind when he wrote this song. Maybe we should use it as our anthem.

**William R. Barrineau**  
Puerto Rico

*you're chokin',  
Everything is broken.*

*Broken hands on broken  
ploughs,  
Broken treaties, broken vows,  
Broken pipes, broke tools,  
People bending broken rules.  
Hound dog howling, bull frog  
croaking,  
Everything is broken.*

## Federal fact-finding mission fails to find Tinian, Rota

If the recent visit of the nine-man "fact-finding" team, headed by Igor Timofeyev, is any indication of what is to come in the federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration system, then Rota and Tinian residents should just pack up and move to Saipan now.

I am deeply disappointed and insulted that these federal officials traveled all the way to the CNMI but never gave the courtesy to the outer islands of even a day or couple of hours visit. What type of fact-finding mission could possibly be credible if it does not include facts gathered from the outer islands?

The Rota and Tinian casino gaming industries have the single largest impact on immigration than any other industry in the CNMI, yet these federal officials failed to meet with the local government regulators of these industries or the operators of the current casinos. How could a "fact-finding" mission be complete without considering the huge impact on these industries as a result of the federalization process?

The islands of Rota and Tinian are desperately trying to develop economies that are independent of the 30-year subsidy of the Saipan tax base. If

this federalization process does not consider the harmful impacts to the outer islands, then all Saipan taxpayers need to be prepared to permanently subsidize the outer islands forever.

The federal visitors have made it very evident by their actions that they believe that the economies and impacts on the outer islands do not matter. Unfortunately their actions and treatment of the outer islands will directly impact how long Saipan must subsidize those islands. The obvious elephant in the room is that if the Feds believe that only the Saipan economy matters, then it will only be the Saipan economy that continues to subsidize the entire CNMI.

If they have not already been told, someone please tell them that there are actually three inhabited islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands "... The people who live, work and do business on the outer island also have valuable input to the federalization process and should be treated with some respect.

**Phillip Mendiola-Long**  
San Jose, Tinian



### TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED

If you speak either Korean, Russian or Japanese fluently, and want to work in a dynamic guest-oriented environment - then we may have a position for you!

We are currently looking for outgoing, professional and friendly people to work as \*Clubmates (must be able to swim), Guest Relations, and Front Desk Clerks.

Must be US citizen, CNMI resident or have IR status.

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Detailed, organized, able to multi-task, work under pressure, and meet various deadlines

Experienced with "cold calling" and keeping a daily itinerary of sales activities

Proficiency with PCs, MS Office (Word, Excel, Outlook), and Internet

Able to work a fulltime schedule which may include evenings and weekends

#### Must have

High school diploma. Some college preferred.

Must have 1 year of experience in telecommunications

Must have at least 1 year of experience in outside sales.

Business/government sales preferred.

Valid CNMI driver's license, police and court clearance, and reliable transportation

US Citizenship or US Permanent Residency

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**1999 Volkswagen Beetle**  
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**\$6,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



**2006 Honda Civic DX**  
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**2003 Kia Sorento LX**  
STOCK # 35176610  
**\$9,995<sup>00</sup>**



**1999 Toyota 4Runner 4x4**  
STOCK # X0221184  
**\$9,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



**2004 Honda Civic DX**  
STOCK # 4H606499  
**\$12,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



**2005 Ford Mustang**  
STOCK # 55105436  
**\$23,995<sup>00</sup>**



**2005 Ford Ranger**  
STOCK # 5PA78255  
**\$12,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



**2005 Honda Accord EX**  
STOCK # 5A068921  
**\$18,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



**2005 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4x4**  
STOCK # 5C702102  
**\$21,995<sup>00\*</sup>**



**Mona Mengloi**  
Sales Consultant  
Visit or call 234-5562



**2006 Honda Civic LX**  
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**2005 Nissan 350Z**  
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**SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM  
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On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies Last.  
\* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.



**Joeten Motors**  
POWERED BY YOU



Letter to the Editor

Honoring our forefathers’ wisdom

As I wrestle with my thoughts one evening at sunset, I took a glimpse at the heritage carved by our forefathers of life they had endured through the centuries. They forged and left behind the time-honored tradition of “Our Ways”. I am sure that they expect us to convey them to our children so that our cultural traditions are strengthened in perpetuity.

History is replete with oral or written explanations of how they had cultivated the soil on the hills of these islands to plant staple food, fruits and vegetables. Time to attend to the family garden is divided so that they can fish the lagoon and open waters to provide sustenance for indigenous families throughout the Northern Marianas Community.

Over the last four centuries, they have kept their humble ways as the arrogant and more equipped conquerors landed on our shores in search of exotic treasures. Some even had the audacity to inflict strange changes that run against the grain of our cultural traditions. But even with the imposition of master-slave insults right here at home, our forefathers have kept their humble demeanor if only to ensure that indigenous siblings live to see brighter tomorrows.

I am not suggesting that we return to antiquity. But I am saying that we preserve—through thoughtful dispositions—what our forefathers have left behind in both land and sea resources for the indigenous people of these islands. For some, land and sea resources are just another commodity for exploitation and subsequent depletion. For us, it’s our livelihood and we must protect them in the interest of posterity.


The sea beyond our lagoons is similar to a banking institution filled with undetermined wealth in the trillions of dollars. These too must be guarded on all corners so that what is harvested accrues to enhancing the livelihood of our children. It is only right that we do this in the future provision of a decent livelihood for our people.

What we have in both land and sea is our wealth. The muffled wisdom of our forefathers is around us in spirit everywhere! I could hear it in the howling of the trade winds at a distance, rain rushing down the mountain side into the lagoon or out in the open waters where white doves sing to the beautiful landscape along the shore. They have kept their humility intact to protect what is rightfully the property of posterity.


As they have done over centuries, we too must firmly and steadfastly join hands in traditional unity and harmony to protect what is ours in the interest of our children’s rightful enjoyment. We must instill in our children the proud sense of Belonging and Ownership. It is the right thing to do as they unravel their rich heritage in preparation to carry the torch of leadership to the next generation.

No matter what technology would have brought to communities the world over, planting staple food in our soil and protecting all that belong to us in the lagoon and open waters would ensure that even when famine hits, there’s sustenance we could dig out of the soil or pull out of the lagoon or open waters to feed our children. It may sound a bit too far fetched, but holding and preserving what’s ours and posterity is the timeless wisdom we’ve received from our forefathers since time begun.

Candy B. Taman  
Former Member  
House of Representatives



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE  
LOT IN TATGUA, ROTA FOR SALE OR LEASE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wishes to inform the general public of the sale or lease of Lot No. 257 R 35 located in Tatgua, Rota, more particularly described as follows:

**Lot No. 257 R 35** containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 257 R 03, dated October 17, 1995, Commonwealth Recorder’s File No. 95-2671, dated October 20, 1995, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Interested firms of individuals are encouraged to submit their sealed offers to purchase or lease, addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. All offers to purchase or lease said property must be sealed and must be received no later than August 18, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by August 18, 2008 and must be received no later than August 27, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. at which time all offers received will be opened and reviewed by NMHC. Off-island bidders must notify the NMHC Corporate Director in writing (by any mode of written communication including facsimile or other electronic transmission) of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. Minimum bid shall not be less than \$40,000.00. All other bids, including untimely sealed bids will be rejected.


NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all offers received in the best interest of NMHC.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the offered purchase price must be paid by the winning bidder if the NMHC notifies the same of his, her or their selection. Payment must be received no later than August 28, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. The remaining balance of the offered purchase price shall then be due within ten (10) calendar days of said notification. Failure to make payment of the immediate deposit or the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the winning bidder of his, her or their ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of said bidder’s rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.


Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold AS IS and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

\*\*\*NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency\*\*\*



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950



NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE  
IN DEED OF TRUST

Edward M. Ayuyu, (“Trustor”), on or about September 17, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, (“Trustee”), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, (“VA”), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 17, 2001 under Document No. 01-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

**LOT NO. 345 R 426, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 929 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 345 R 09 DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1984, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER’S FILE NO. 84-2049, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.**

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on July 20, 2006. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.


Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on August 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation’s Rota Field Office, Sonton, P.O. Box 527, Rota, MP 96951 under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$20,000.00, the total amount due under the VA loan plus Trustee’s expenses.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier’s check and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 15th day of July 2008.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto  
Corporate Director, NMHC



COMMONWEALTH  
PORTS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES

**SERVICES REQUIRED**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is inviting interested insurance brokers, singularly or in partnership with others, to submit technical proposals for providing insurance brokerage services to CPA. Interested insurance brokers must be licensed in the Northern Mariana Islands and have a current business license.

**THE PROCESS**

The process will consist of the receipt and evaluation of sealed proposals for technical services. The proposals should demonstrate the ability of the brokers to perform and provide the services enumerated in the Scope of Services stipulated in the Request For Proposal (RFP). At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the highest rated broker will be selected to negotiate fees for services with CPA. If successful, the broker will be appointed as CPA’s exclusive insurance representative on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed five years.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The selected broker shall assist CPA in obtaining insurance coverages consisting of Airport and Seaport Property and Liability insurance, Automobile, Crime, and Director’s & Officer’s Liability insurance and providing such other services as may be subsequently negotiated.

**PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE**

Proposal packages will be available beginning Monday, June 30, 2008, at the CPA Administrative Offices, Saipan International Airport, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays. Five copies of the sealed proposals shall be submitted to Mr. Lee C. Cabrera, Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, POB 1055, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, July 21, 2008.

**EVALUATION**

The factors to be used in evaluating the proposals shall be the criteria set forth in the RFP. Each criteria will be assigned a grading up to ten points; the proposer receiving the highest overall score will be selected to negotiate a fee for services. The CPA reserves the right to reject any proposals in accordance with Section 3.2(7) of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Frances Mafnas, Acting Comptroller, at 664-3524 anytime during the hours stated above.

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA  
Acting Executive Director/Contracting Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
Second Floor Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE  
Requirements for Filing a Complete Application


The requirements of the Labor Department’s automated processing system necessitate that each application be complete when filed. However, applications need be complete when filed only for Labor Department purposes, not for Immigration Division purposes. Applications can be supplemented when they reach the Immigration Division.

For Labor Department purposes, the following are NOT REQUIRED in order to have a complete application filed with Labor Processing:


- Health certification
- Police clearance
- Passport copy
- BGRT information

Employment Services may require the filing of BGRT information in connection with a job vacancy announcement and Labor Processing may request BGRT information when examining an application, but this information is not required to be filed in every case.

A completed Job Vacancy Announcement **IS REQUIRED** in order to have a complete application.



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Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995




LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE  
Published Notice of Deficiencies and Denials  
with respect to Applications Filed with the Labor Department

On August 1, 2008, the Labor Division will begin publishing on the Labor Department’s website, [www.marianaslabor.net](http://www.marianaslabor.net), notices with respect to deficiencies in and denials of applications. The Labor Division will also post these notices on the bulletin boards at its offices in the Afetna Square building in San Antonio.


The Department is taking this step, in part, because of difficulties in the past when foreign national workers did not know that an employer’s application involving employment for them had been deficient or denied. This way, everyone involved will have access to the notice. In addition, the Department is operating under an austerity budget that requires it to use the most efficient legally permissible means possible to deliver notices.

All applicants are responsible for checking the website or the bulletin boards for actions taken on any pending application. Applicants will have 15 days from the date of posting to cure deficiencies or to appeal denials.

If an applicant provides an e-mail address at the time of application, the Department’s automated processing system will automatically send an e-mail with respect to any deficiency or denial. The e-mail notice is a courtesy provided by the Department. Absence of an e-mail notice will not excuse any failure to cure a deficiency or to appeal a denial.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING  
Second Floor Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE  
Published Notice of  
E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

**Employment Services**

[employmentservices@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:employmentservices@cnmi-gov.net)  
Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

**Labor Processing**

[laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net)  
Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

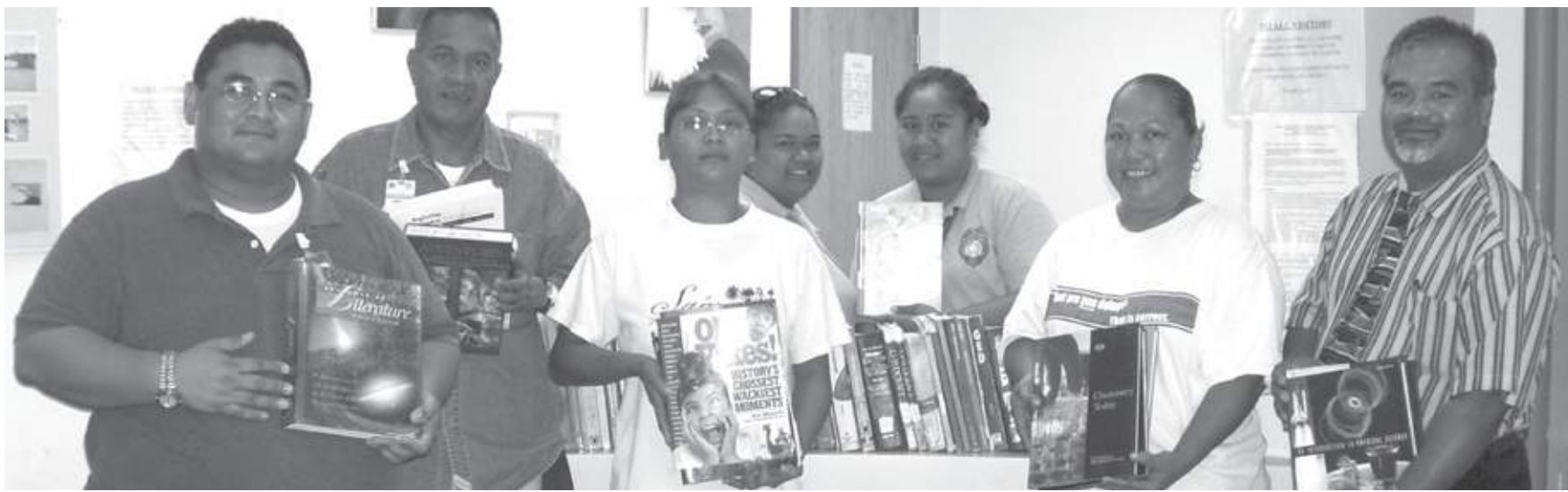
**Labor Enforcement**

[laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:laborenforcement@cnmi-gov.net)  
Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Enforcement.

**Administrative Hearing Office**

[laborhearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net](mailto:laborhearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net)  
Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.



**BOOK DONATION**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Division of Youth Services Kagman Juvenile Detention extends its gratitude to Barbara Lee and Bertha Pangelinan for their generous donation of books to the Kagman Juvenile Detention. In picture are, from left, Department Consent Decree adviser Floyd Masga, JDU supervisor Thomas Limes, Bertha Pangelinan, JCW I Jessica Igisomar, JCW I Sharma Iginioif, Barbara Lee and DCCA acting Secretary Melvin Faisao.

# Palacios: Name CPA board appointees now

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios reiterated his call today for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to name appointees to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Palacios expressed concern about the delay in the submission of appointments, saying it should not be a reason to keep CPA under a state of emergency designation.

"Don't tell me you can't find seven good people in the Commonwealth. CPA has been under a state of emergency for 60 days. We need to resolve this issue immediately," Palacios said.

CPA is now in the third month of being under the administration's direct control. Fitial renewed the emergency declaration on Saturday, citing the lack of a functioning board to run the ports authority. The previous board members resigned in late May 2008 at the governor's request.

To date, the administration has nominated two individuals to CPA—former Sen. Thomas Villagomez to represent Saipan and Manuel Villagomez to represent Tinian. The Senate, which must confirm any appointment to CPA, has yet to act on either nomination. There are five other vacancies to fill.

Palacios implied that the administration is taking too long to submit names because it only wants the governor's allies on the CPA board.

"Just appoint qualified individuals, that's all the law requires. Get people who can do the job. Never mind their political affiliation," Palacios said.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. denied that politics is involved in the selection of board members. He said that neither of the two pending nominees belong to the currently empowered Covenant Party.

"We are doing our best to expedite the nominations and we apologize for the delay. We should have more nominations soon," Reyes said.

Fitial declared a state of emergency to stave off a technical default on CPA's airport revenue bond indenture. (Agnes E. Donato)

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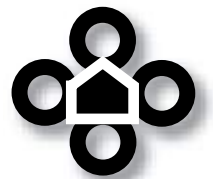
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\*OAC. Conditions apply. Vehicle not exactly as shown.

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2*4*18 Utility regular \$6.70	2*4*20 Utility treated \$10.70
2*4*20 Utility regular \$7.40	2*6*12 Utility treated \$10.20
2*6*12 Utility regular \$6.90	2*6*14 Utility treated \$12.20
2*6*14 Utility regular \$7.90	2*6*16 Utility treated \$14.20
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Ceiling tile 2*4' \$3.00/pc	Shower room 35% off
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# NMI's need for more capital funding stressed

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio and CNMI Rep. Ralph Torres recently met with Interior

Appropriations Subcommittee professional staff member Chris Topik regarding the ongoing

need for increased funding for the CNMI infrastructure, especially for power generation.

Torres is chairman of the House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare.

Tenorio said he regularly meets with Topik, and took this opportunity "to not only introduce

Chairman Torres to him, but also to bring him up to date on CIP [Capital Improvement Project] issues in the CNMI. He has been very helpful getting the CNMI additional funding in the past. It is important that he understands our needs."



Tenorio

Topik was briefed about the status of Saipan's power plants and the need to replace and upgrade them. "Chris agreed with me that alternative energy sources are only a supplement to basic power generation and right now, we don't even have basic power generation to meet the needs of the people, businesses and government, let alone economic growth," said Tenorio. "The lack of affordable electricity is rapidly ruining our economy and is seriously degrading our way of life more than any other factor. What investor would want

to come to our islands with very expensive, unreliable power? "We must work together to

improve our power generation and power distribution problems. This to me should be our government's priority," added Tenorio.

Also included in Tenorio's package of information were:

■ the \$20 million the Northern Mariana College needs for a new campus;

■ the \$6 million the Public School System needs to renovate and repair many of their schools; and

■ the \$18 million needed by the Commonwealth Health Center to bring its facility up to national standards.

"I also pointed out that we still need more than \$400 million for our water and wastewater systems," said Tenorio.

"The unspent balance, which is still over \$50 million, has derailed my efforts in the past from getting additional CIP funding. I was prepared with statistics on the Governor's reprogramming efforts, EPA mandated projects, and projects for Rota and Tinian. Unfortunately some projects are just not moving which raises concerns about our need for new money. I hope to work with the Governor and Legislature to address problems with our CIP. There needs to be a lot more cooperation if any of our CIP problems are going to be resolved. I am glad that Chairman Torres was able to hear first hand that Congress is willing to help us, but we have to be responsible and accountable," said Tenorio. (PR)

## 2008 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS



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# Load shedding schedule

As rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Power Plant 1, the load shedding schedule for July 19 through July 25, 2008 will be as follows.

**8am - 10am:** Feeder-2: Second Partial  
Fishing Base south to San Jose Intersection

**10am - 12pm:** Kiya-1: First Partial  
Kana Tabla, Botanical Garden, San Vicente, Dandan, Airport Road, Isley Field, Lower Dandan

**12pm - 2pm:** Kiya-2: Second

Partial  
Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

**2pm - 4pm:** Feeder-1: Second & Third Partial  
99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill, Anaks Condominiums

**4pm - 6pm:** Feeder-7: Entire Grid  
Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

**6pm - 8pm:** Feeder-4: Second Partial  
Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman

and portions of Papago

**8pm -10pm:** Kiya-4: Second Partial  
Susupe, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya Village

The first partial in each of the respective feeder/kiya could be included in the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. Water and wastewater services will be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages. This schedule may be modified in future public notices. It may also be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary. *(CUC)*



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



### PUBLIC NOTICE

**"This Notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"**  
**July 05, 2008**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2008 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for comment period is Monday, August 4, 2004.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

## State Board of Education PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PSS RFP# 08-020



The Public School System (PSS) and the State Board of Education are soliciting for request for proposals for an individual/vendor for the One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the **Marianas High School Gymnasium** for PSS. Detailed information on the Scope of Work are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Proposals and (Responsibility Determination-Confidential) documents must be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP # 08-020 "One (1) Year Janitorial Services for the **Marianas High School Gymnasium**" and submitted & labeled one (1) original with three (3) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than August 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Any bids after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, at fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mail to [babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp). Questions must be in writing and submitted to AP&SO no later than Ten (10) working days prior to the deadline to submit the proposals.

The bidders are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their valid CNMI Business License to conduct Janitorial Services (Supply & Services).

The selection of an individual or firm will be based on the following criteria: Qualification of Firm-30 Points, Performance Record-30 Points and Price-40 Points a total of 100 Points.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3062 or 3077 or faxed to 664-3791.

/S/ Craig H. Garrison  
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta  
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

## MARIANAS TRENCH MARINE MONUMENT

### BENEFITS FOR THE CNMI

#### WORLDWIDE ATTENTION

from media  
from scientists  
from tourists

#### "BRAGGING RIGHTS"

for contribution to Micronesian Challenge  
for role in protecting marine environment  
for 2nd largest marine preserve in the country (the world?)

#### INCREASED REVENUE

from jobs created directly  
from jobs created indirectly for support services  
from new related businesses  
from increased visitors - tourists, scientists, media, etc.  
from Federal facility support

#### RESOURCE PROTECTION

through terms of the monument agreement  
through federal monitoring of Northern Island waters  
through the stability of long-term commitment

#### INCREASED POLICY PRESENCE

through terms of the monument agreement  
through seat on management board  
through voice/role in formulating regulations

#### EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ACCESS

through co-management with federal government

#### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

through research/researcher presence  
through greater edu/eco-tourism potential through publication of related materials/research results/findings.

*Brought to you by the Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument.*

## State Board of Education PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PSS RFP# 08-023



The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting for competitive sealed proposals for the **Hardening of the Rota High School Covered Walkway**, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and plans are available at the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. A charge of \$10.00 will be assessed for the plan. FEMA and the NMHC has obligated portion of the project cost.

This Procurement is made in accordance with the PSS Procurement Regulation (PSSPR) Section 3-106, entitled "Competitive Sealed Proposals."

All interested companies are required to attend the pre-proposal conference and site visit on July 30, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., local time at the Rota High School in Songsong Village, Rota.

All responses to this Request For Proposal must take into account all taxes that the CNMI Government will assess if the contract is awarded, including the CNMI Excise Tax. All proposals must be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP# 08-023" containing the original plus five (5) copies, and be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office Situated on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 2:00 p.m., local time on August 15, 2008. No Bid Proposal submissions will be accepted after the closing under any circumstances.

All vendors are requested to submit with their proposal a copy of their CNMI Business License and other responsibility documents in compliance with PSSPT 3-301. The selection of the contractor(s) will be based on the following criteria: **Qualification** (20 points); **Performance** (20 points); **Price** (20 points); **Time Table** (20 points and **Warranty** (20 points) a total of 100 points.

In accordance with PSSPR Section 4-401, bid security of fifteen percent (15%) must accompany the proposal. This security may be certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond.

Inquiries to this proposal announcement may be directed to the PSS Acting Procurement & Supply Officer at telephone number 237-3062. Technical questions, however, must be in writing and must be addressed to W. David Loan, PSS CIP Coordinator. Questions can be either faxed to (670) 6643715 or e-mailed to [load@pss.cnmi.mp](mailto:load@pss.cnmi.mp).

The Public School System reserves the right to award a single or multiple awards, or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System. All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Craig H. Garrison  
Acting, Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta  
PSS Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer



# Continental is named best domestic airline

HOUSTON—Continental Airlines said yesterday that it was named the “Best Domestic Airline,” “Best Airline for Customer Service” and “Best Airline for Flights to Mexico” in Executive Travel Magazine’s 2008 Leading Edge Awards. The award winners were selected by a survey of the magazine’s readers.

In addition, Continental was named the No. 2 “Best Domestic Airline for First Class Service” and No. 2 “Best Domes-

tic Airline for Business Class Service,” as well as the No. 3 airline for airport lounges and for flights to Canada and the Caribbean.

Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operation and its corporate culture. For the fifth consecutive year, FORTUNE magazine named Continental the No. 1 World’s Most Admired Airline on its 2008 list of World’s Most Admired Companies.

Continental Airlines also was named the “Best Airline in North America” at the 2008 OAG Airline of the Year Awards, for the fifth consecutive year. The airline has also been named “Best Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Pacific Business Class among U.S. Airlines” for ten consecutive years by Condé Nast Traveler magazine.

Continental Airlines is the world’s fifth largest airline. For more company information, visit [continental.com](http://continental.com). (*Continental*)



Elvira O. Seman, a case worker with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, is all smiles with the prizes she won as the grand prize winner of Foremost Foods Saipan’s “Gotta lotta cases?” promo.

## Case worker wins new kitchen showcase

A case worker with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation who is about to move into a new apartment now has everything for her kitchen—she won a whole showcase in the grand raffle draw for Foremost Foods Saipan’s “Gotta lotta cases?” promo.

Twenty-five-year-old Elvira O. Seman of Susupe said she was incredulous when she was informed on the phone by Rusty Loyola, Foremost Foods Saipan operations manager, that she won.

Seman said she was having doubts when Loyola called her on the phone. “I just went along. Then I called back to check,” Seman, who works at OVR’s Independent Living Older Blind Program, said.

The mother of a 4-year-old girl named Katriana, Seman said that she had been scheduled to move to a new place in Chalan Kanoa in two weeks when she was told that she won.

“It was unexpected. Now, I don’t have to worry about fill-

ing up my kitchen; I have the whole kitchen set up. This is wonderful. I am really grateful to Foremost Foods for having the promo especially in these trying times,” Seman said.

Seman won a 13.2 cu. ft. refrigerator; a bread toaster; an 18-inch grill; a seven-cup rice cooker; a blender; a food processor; a pressure cooker; a 13-piece cookware set; a dinnerware set, a waffle maker, a convection oven and a microwave oven.

Johnnie Fong, Foremost Foods managing director, said the promo was the company’s way of giving back to the community for choosing the healthy food products offered by Foremost.

“We feel that a kitchen showcase is a good complement to the healthful products that Foremost carries. Our beverages are good not only as drinks, but also as cooking ingredients,” he said.

Seman said that her kitchen package will go a long way in

sprucing up her new kitchen.

Foremost Foods Saipan’s “Gotta lotta cases?” entitled customers to an entry form for every purchase of six 1-qt cartons of Foremost UHT Reduced Fat and/or Full Cream Milk.

Seman received her prizes at the Foremost Foods Saipan office in Chalan Laulau on July 11, 2008.

The promo ran from April 16 to July 5, 2008. There were eight winners in the first drawing, which was held on May 9, 2008. Each won one kitchen item. Five of the eight winners in the first drawing said they regularly bought Foremost Foods’ milk products by the case for their children.

The winner of the baby grand prize was Willina Mae Borja, an eight-month pregnant avid milk drinker from Chinatown who worked as a telephone operator. She won in the second drawing, which was held on June 2, 2008. The grand prize drawing was held on July 5, 2008. (*PR*)

## Gas climbs to \$4.78 in A. Samoa, \$7 in Tonga

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Gasoline prices in American Samoa will increase again later this week after the release of new data by the government’s Office of Petroleum Management.

The new increase of about seven cents a gallon will put the

new average retail price at between 4 US dollars and 75 cents and \$4.78 per gallon.

Sione Kava from the Office of Petroleum Management says there is not much American Samoa can do about the increases because it’s something outside local control.

However, he says American Samoa prices are still lower than other Pacific countries, such as Tonga where price is about 7 US dollars a gallon.

Kava said other petroleum products such as jet fuel, kerosene and diesel fuel also faced an increase.

## Tonga requires fishing nets be licensed

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Tonga Broadcasting Commission/PIR) — The Ministry of Fisheries, under the Fisheries Management Conservation Regulations 2008 has released a public notice requiring all fishermen who use commercial net fishing methods or ‘kupenga’ to be licensed. This excludes those that use cast nets or ‘kupenga sili’.

Beginning this month, all fishermen using fishing nets will need to be licensed before the deadline of Friday August 8th.

This is the first time that

fishermen using nets will have to be licensed, and Fisheries department legal officer Viliami Mo’ale told Radio Tonga news that they were holding regular meetings with the fishermen to educate them on the process of application, the fees involved and other new regulatory matters.

The public notice from the ministry of fisheries also reveals a set limit for the length of commercial nets to be used which should not be any longer than 300 metres, and have

no less than 50 millimetre—wide netting.

The ministry has also warned fishermen that they are not allowed to use double nets when fishing as these tend to catch even the very small fish.

They have also cautioned businesses and individuals the buying and selling of illegal fishing nets is forbidden, with the ministry planning to put up measures to ensure that all nets being imported are in compliance with all necessary regulations before entering into the country.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Power outage in Sadog Tasi today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage in Sadog Tasi on July 18, from 8am to 12pm, for maintenance work on the power lines.

In a notice issued yesterday, CUC said its Power Division line crews will be relocating power poles in Sadog Tasi on Friday and the outage will be implemented to ensure the men’s safety.

This scheduled power outage is on top of the July 12 through July 18, 2008 scheduled load shedding.

Friday’s outage will affect the water wells in Sadog Tasi and Laguna Drive.

“Again, this power outage is required to safely relocate power poles to within the right of way for the construction of the new road and drainage structures by Hawaiian Rock. CUC appreciates the community’s understanding in this additional inconvenience,” CUC said. (*CUC*)

#### Late registration ongoing at Hopwood

Hopwood Jr. High School wishes to announce to students, parents, and/or guardians for incoming and off-island students that the late registration for this school year, 2008-2009 is ongoing until July 31. Please register your child now between 8am and 3pm daily. Should you have any questions or concerns, please call 237-3425, Registrar’s Office. Don’t forget proper documents—listed below—that may be needed when you register your child. All requests for transcripts and certifications must be requested in advance with a small fee upon receiving it on the same time indicated above.

- Official Transcript
- Health Transcript
- Birth Certificate
- Medical Insurance Card
- Entry Permit

#### Legal Guardianship Documents

#### Guest workers forum on Saturday

The Coalition of United Workers (NMI) will be hosting a Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Sri Lankan & Indian Guest Workers’ Forum with Rep. Tina Sablan and Federal Labor Ombudsman Jim Benedetto on Saturday, July 19, 2008, 8:30am to 12 noon at Kili Beach. This forum is sponsored by the CNMI Bangladeshi Community. (*PR*)

#### OGA petition signing schedules

The petitions for the initiative to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature will be available at the following times and locations:

■ Sabalu Market at Civic Center. July 19, 7am to 12pm

■ Kagman Market, every evening this week from 4pm to 5pm

Please help spread the word and encourage registered voters you know to stop by any one of these markets to add their names to the initiative. We need just 512 more signatures by Monday, July 21 to get the initiative on the ballot this year!

For more information, or to make other arrangements to sign the petition, call Tina Sablan, at 285-3935 or email [tina-sablan@gmail.com](mailto:tina-sablan@gmail.com).

#### Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

■ Monday - Friday

from 8:30am to 7pm

■ Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm

Please adhere to the following schedules:

■ Monday – Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.

■ Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.

For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (*PR*)

#### Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam are warning the public that the U.S. military is currently conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla everyday until July 18, 2008, from 7am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO’s Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (*EMO*)

#### Red Cross Health and Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month July 2008:

Adult CPR – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm

First Aid – July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm

Infant & Child CPR – August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30.00 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35.00 per person. A participant’s booklet is required. Participant’s booklet is \$5.00 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (*PR*)



# Seven bands and counting in band contest

Seven bands will be joining *Beach Road Magazine's* Saipan Summer Jam, while other interested groups continue to inquire about how they can join the biggest gig in town.

"It's definitely getting more exciting by the day," Susan Marchitti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager said. "We've been getting a lot of phone calls from bands that are interested to join."

Marchitti said a maximum of 10 bands would be allowed to participate in the Saipan Summer Jam. Deadline for submission of entries is 5 p.m. Aug. 18.

The event will be held on Aug. 23 at Saipan Grand Hotel's

Club V and will feature up-and-coming bands competing for a chance to finally get out of the garage and perform actual gigs.

A six-member panel of judges, composed of individuals from the local music scene, will decide on who the top three winners will be. Judging will be based on showmanship, originality of performance, audience impact through texters' choice and overall performance.

Cash prizes await the winners who will also get a chance to perform at Palms Resort Saipan's "Back-to-School Summer Bash" on Aug. 30. Other exciting prizes will also be given away.

Minako Kayagaki, Palms Resort Saipan advertising sales representative, said the hotel's management has decided to have the Saipan Summer Jam winners highlight Palms Resort Saipan's back-to-school event.

"We would like to offer the stage to the top three bands for our 'Back-to-School Summer Bash,'" Kayagaki said.

All participating bands will be featured in the special Saipan Summer Jam section of the August issue of *Beach Road Magazine*. They will also be required to bring their own instruments; stage hands will be available to help with the setup of instruments.

The contest is open to all

amateur bands with at least two members. A sound check session will be held on site prior

to the event. Each band will be given no more than 20 minutes to perform.

For inquiries, call 234-6449, 235-7645, 483-3145 or 483-3147. **(PR)**

## Winner of Coca-Cola promo is a repeater

The invitation that says, "The more you buy, the more chances you have of winning," often read in promo announcements, could not be more true for Brian P. Reyes.

Reyes, a happy winner of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc.'s "Golden Ticket Giveaway," which entitled him to five Hollywood Theater movie passes, had also won three Saipan World Resort Wave Jungle passes in two drawings of CCBM's "Nestea Summer Splash" promo in July of last year.

A regular patron of Coca-Cola, Reyes who buys products by the case, said he was thankful that CCBM constantly introduces promotions as an incentive for consumers.

"I am a Sprite guy. My family loves Nestea. I never run out of Coca-Cola products in the house," Reyes said.

Reyes, a businessman, said he bought cases of Coca-Cola products for Father's Day and for his daughter's school graduation. "I'll keep buying Coca-Cola products," he said.

Reyes was among the five first draw winners of Coca-Cola's "Golden Ticket Giveaway," the raffle drawing of which was held on June 28, 2008.

Another winner, Cristina Eugenio, administrative assistant at Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., said she had promised her 15-year-old daughter that she would give her the five movie passes if she won. Eugenio said she always bought Coca-Cola products in bulk that lasted them for a week.

"Every Saturday, I buy at least half a case for our week's supply," she said.

Still another winner was Corazon Beltran, deputy clerk at the CNMI Superior Court's

Clerk of Court who said she would give her prize to her daughter, who turned 16 on July 17, 2008, so she could take her friends to the movies. Beltran said she has always been a Diet Coke person.

The other winners were Menetee Siasoyco and Theodora SN. Decena.

The winners received their prizes on July 1, 2008 at the Coca-Cola office in Chalan Laulau where the drawing was also held. The promo runs from June 7, 2008 to July 31, 2008. To enter, just purchase a 6-can pack or a 1.25-liter bottle of any Coca-Cola product to get one entry form. There will be a total of 15 winners—five in each of the three drawings—with every winner receiving five Hollywood Theater movie passes.

The second draw was held on July 12, 2008; the third is scheduled for July 31, 2008. **(PR)**

## Wendy's launches school supply drive for public school students

**TAMUNING, Guam**—Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers of Guam launched on July 18 its monthlong school supply drive for Guam's public school students called, "Wendy's Stuff the Bus".

The two-part campaign drive, beginning July 18 through Aug. 15, aims to collect school supplies such as pencils, pocket folders, composition notebooks, crayons, hand sanitizers and toilet paper as well as collect monetary donations. Supplies may be dropped off at Wendy's locations in Tamuning and Barrigada and island residents can make monetary donations by logging on to [www.stuffthebusguam.com](http://www.stuffthebusguam.com) or visiting all

Wendy's, Cold Stone Creamery, and Personal Finance Center locations.

All of the funds raised from the website and participating donation outlets will be used toward the purchase of additional supplies such as ink toner, copier paper, etc.

"Guam continues to be good to Wendy's and this is our way of giving back," says Sumiko Espaldon, owner of Quick Service Foods, Inc. doing business as Wendy's Guam. "In 2006, the Wendy's Stuff the Bus effort met overwhelming success and public support and this year, we hope to make an even larger impact by inviting other island businesses to participate and creating different ways for

residents to get involved."

The final day to make donations on both the website and through participating donation outlets is Friday, Aug. 15, 2008.

The Wendy's Stuff the Bus campaign is made possible by other community supporters of public education such as GUAMCELL Communications, GGEFCU, The Mayor's Council of Guam, Personal Finance Center, and National Office Supply to name a few.

Wendy's was founded in 1969 by Dave Thomas and is the third largest quick services hamburger chain in the world with more than 6,700 restaurants in North America and international markets such as Guam. **(PR)**

### PACIFIC BRIEFS

#### Dry spell brings health risks in dusty Honiara

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands** (Solomon Times/PIR) — Breathing the dust is how most describe walking through the streets of Honiara during a dry spell of no rain. "This is where you get summer all year round," one young student, Junior Kali joked. The intense heat is the first greeting for visitors outside the Henderson International Airport tarmac upon arrival. "Heat circulation around the city can be connected to continuous bouts of flu," a nurse, Jane Sade stated. Another added factor to continuous flu in the city is the "very dusty air." "Moving around Honiara is best in vehicles because walking to go places means breathing in the dust added with the intense heat," Sade added. Young children are at higher risk of catching bad flu when exposed outdoors for a long period of time. This however does not stop visitors from abroad who enjoy

the laid back and friendly lifestyle of the Solomons.

#### Aids under-reported in Solomon islands

**HONIARA, Solomon Islands** (Solomon Times/PIR)—Statistics have shown that Solomon Islands have had an increase in cases of HIV infection. However, there are still concerns about the number of unreported cases. SIBC [Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corp.] news reports that officially, Solomon Islands has 11 recorded cases of HIV/AIDS: seven women and four men. But the Coordinator of the Solomons' STI and HIV National Campaign, Isaac Muliloa, was quoted as saying they know there are many more cases that haven't been reported. Solomon Islands has begun a free HIV/Aids screening program, but the stigma attached to the infection means many are not using it.

#### Taiwanese investors eye Fiji's key industries

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fijilive/PIR) —A 12-member delegation from Taiwan is in the country exploring investment potentials in the sectors of tourism, aquaculture, forestry, pharmaceuticals, dairy and others. And a member of the delegation is already keen to import and possibly set up a virgin coconut oil processing plant in Fiji. Some of these investors have visited Fiji on holiday but are now keen on investing in areas of interest and the bottling of mineral water is another potential. And with the strength of Fiji as a brand in the water market there is potential for other companies to also explore these. Welcoming the delegation this morning in Suva, interim Trade minister Tom Ricketts highlighted some strategic steps being taken by the Government towards facilitating speedy investment approvals. The interest from the Taiwanese investors is coming at a time when investment interests from other countries are slow, he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cristina Eugenio, left, and Corazon Beltran, two of the five first draw winners of Coca-Cola Beverage Co. Micronesia's "Golden Ticket Giveaway" promo, smile for the camera with the Hollywood Theater movie passes that they've won.

## BSA Chamorro District gets \$5K from FHB foundation

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—The Boy Scouts of America, Chamorro District has been given a grant of \$5,000 by The First Hawaiian Bank Foundation, the charitable arm of First Hawaiian Bank, according to an announcement by Don Homer, FHB president and chief executive officer. The grant will support the Boy Scouts of America, Chamorro District's 2008 Friends of Scouting Campaign which provides funding for its scouting activities.

The Boy Scouts of America has been instilling positive values on Guam since 1920. The

Aloha Council, Boy Scouts of America which includes Guam and Saipan CNMI, is the largest geographic council, covering over 6 million square miles across the Pacific Ocean. It serves youth and their leaders throughout the Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, The Marshall Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Scouting is an effective youth development program with everlasting impact for its participants.

First Hawaiian Bank Foundation is the charitable arm of First

Hawaiian Bank. In 2007, the foundation and bank contributed \$3.5 million to more than 350 non-profit organizations. The foundation funds educational opportunities, access to health care, services for children and youth, human service needs, and the many ways that the arts enrich our lives.

First Hawaiian Bank ([www.fhb.com](http://www.fhb.com)), with assets of \$12.75 billion, has 58 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam and two on Saipan. Founded in 1858, it is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. **(FHB)**



# Island Snapshots



**PEPSI PROMO WINNER**

Manny Mangarero, left, poses with his son and Loy San Nicolas, PTC sales manager, right, during the presentation of the laptop he won as part of Pepsi's Twist and Win promo. Mangarero bought his Pepsi with the winning cap at Garapan Market. Still more prizes are available such as cash, iPod, PlayStation 3 and one more laptop. Also, spell P-E-P-S-I with caps and win prizes like shirts, umbrellas, tumblers, towels, handy case or a free Pepsi Max 20 oz bottle. See posters for more details. Brings caps to PTC for redemption of prizes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Quaid O. Ngirchogor is presented with the PlayStation 3 that he won in Pepsi's Twist and Win summer promo. At right is Mike Babauta, PTC's marketing manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**BASULA TOUR**

Members of the Awao Odori team are given a tour inside the Basula Produkto Recycling Facility in Tanapag by company president Eric A. Cruz to let them understand the importance of recycling. Cruz explained to the members that recycling should start from their homes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**CLEANUP BRIGADE**

The DEQ Cleanup Brigade pose with the trash they collected during a cleanup held at the Coral Ocean Point beach side on July 12, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**IN APPRECIATION**

Malou Bautista, right, poses with Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic director Ken Pierson June 27 after being presented a plaque of appreciation for 21 years of service to the clinic. Bautista will be moving with her family to New Zealand.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**RAY OF LIGHT**

AngelRay Guerrero participates in the recent Annual Hawaii Cancer Society Relay for Life. AngelRay wanted to take part as a Goodwill Ambassador so that cancer victims in the CNMI are not forgotten. Here, he is shown with his CNMI group during the Relay for Life event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**BON VOYAGE**

Robert Omar Lieto and Christopher Santos were called to duty on July 14 and 15 with the rest of the CNMI troops. Their families and friends wish the two of them a safe trip and prayers for their safe return. From someone special who supports the troops 110 percent.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



**FIRST BIRTHDAY**

Happy first birthday to our precious Mai Janae Sakai-Peters. Greetings coming from your Mommy, Daddy, big brother Mikey, and the whole family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Business

# Sick and tired and stuck at work

By SHARI ROAN  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

**S**tay home if you're sick. That's the best way to stop the spread of contagious diseases, such as influenza, tuberculosis and gastrointestinal viruses. Besides, you can't do your job capably or safely if you don't feel well. But many Americans simply tough it out when ill, going to work with pain, cramps, headaches, fevers or worse. Often, they have no choice.

As many as 43 percent of American workers in private industry don't have paid sick days, according to 2007 data from the federal government. If they call in sick, they lose their pay and, sometimes, their jobs.

That number has risen over the years, part of a larger trend to cut back on sick leave. Among workers who do still have the once-venerable benefit, many have found their days reduced or lumped together as part of their vacation time. The United States—unique among industrialized countries—doesn't mandate a minimal number of paid sick days for workers.

"Sick time is changing," said Kim Stattner, an expert on absence management for Hewitt Associates, an international company that provides human resources programs and consulting. "The practices and designs are not as generous as they once were."

As employers cut back, however, lawmakers are stepping in, with the support of labor organizations and health officials. In May, legislation cleared the California Assembly that would allow workers to earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. The bill, called Healthy Families, Healthy Workplaces (AB 2716), has been sent to the Senate, where its prospects for passage are considered fair.

As many as 10 other states are also pondering paid-sick-day laws, including Ohio, where residents will likely vote in November on a ballot initiative requiring a minimum number of paid sick days.

Two cities, San Francisco and Washington, have already enacted legislation. In San Francisco, full-time, part-time and temporary workers earn one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, assuming they have been on the job for at least three months. Workers at companies with fewer than 10

employees can accumulate up to five days per year, and workers for companies with 10 or more workers can accumulate up to nine days. The Washington, D.C., law requires workers to be on the job for one year before becoming eligible for paid sick leave. Workers can earn three to seven days depending on the size of their company and whether they work full or part time.

About 135 developed coun-



LOS ANGELES TIMES

The Healthy Families Act would require many businesses to give workers at least seven paid sick days per year.

## How to call in sick: DO'S and DON'TS

By SHARI ROAN  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Need to call in sick? There are right and wrong ways to let your boss know you're a no-show. Most people instinctively know the best way to communicate with their particular supervisor and workplace. But if your illness has caused a sudden loss of common sense, follow these tips compiled from human resources experts and other sources.

- DO speak to your supervisor directly, if possible. Sending an e-mail is a tip-off of possible fakery.
- DON'T attempt to fake sounding ill by using the old tricks: speaking on the phone while lying in bed or bent over the toilet. Remember, if you were an actor, you'd have a SAG card.
- DO call in as early in the day as possible to give your supervisor time to plan the day without you.
- DON'T give your supervisor all the gory details of your illness, pain and suffering. It smacks of exaggeration. Make the call short and to the point.
- DO make the call yourself.

- DON'T have your spouse, child or—worse—mother make the call for you unless you are hospitalized and intubated. Be a grown-up.
- DO apologize for the inconvenience to your employer.
- DON'T call from a baseball game, bar, airport or other questionable venue.
- DO call in sick when you're feeling miserable, need to see a doctor, are contagious or can't think straight.
- DON'T go to work looking like a walking carcass.
- DO get a doctor's note if your illness requires medical treatment and a specified length of time off.
- DON'T use "feminine problems" as an excuse—especially if you're not a woman.
- DO use sunscreen if you take a sick day to go to the beach.
- DON'T tell your boss you'll try to be there after lunch. It won't happen.
- DO know how your supervisor feels about employees taking sick days.
- Don't call in sick on too many Mondays or Fridays. It will damage your credibility.

tries have laws requiring private and public employers to provide paid sick leave to full-time employees. In the United States, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, D-Conn., have introduced a bill, the Healthy Families Act, that would require businesses with 15 or more employees to give workers at least seven paid sick days per year.

"The public supports it," said Ruth Milkman, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment who has studied the proposed laws. "In San Francisco, the law was so popular that the people who were opposed to it didn't even mount a challenge. Paid sick time is a human need that is self-evident."

An estimated 79 percent of low-wage workers and 80 percent of part-time workers do not have paid sick time, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that based its analysis on U.S. Department of Labor statistics. The demand for workers in the service sector has grown substantially over the last two decades, but those jobs are much less likely to carry sick pay, said Jeremy Smith, a lobbyist for the California Labor Federation. Fewer workers today are covered by union contracts, which traditionally dictate paid sick time for their members, he adds.

Small companies are also chipping away at the benefit, Stattner said.

"Some employers look to generate savings from cutting sick time because they are trying to mitigate the cost increase of medical benefits," she said.

Those employers and many others will resist legislation to mandate a certain number of paid sick days, said Peter Ronza, an advisor on employee compensation for the Society for Human Resource Management.

"They still love their people, but they can't afford the kind of benefits that 3M or Best Buy or General Motors can afford," he said. "California is saying, 'OK, we need to have this as a paid benefit.' But it turns out to be something small businesses can't afford."

Many employers have already begun to tinker with sick days.

The brokerage giant Merrill Lynch raised eyebrows last year when it sliced guaranteed sick days for employees from 40 to three. According to Stattner, most companies that provide paid sick days offer about 10 a year. (Employees of the federal government get 13 a year.) Fewer companies than in past years allow employees to carry over unused sick days from one year to the next, but many provide a short-term disability benefit featuring partial pay for six to eight weeks. Moreover, some companies allow employees to purchase long-term disability

## BY THE NUMBERS

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

- 58 percent—U.S. workers with paid sick days.
- 40 percent—Workers in small companies (fewer than 25 employees) with paid sick days.
- 10—Average number of paid sick days per year granted to employees of private companies.
- 49 percent—Workers with paid sick days who don't take any in a given year.
- 3.9—Average number of sick days a person takes each year to care for self.
- 1.3—Average number of sick days taken each year to care for a family member.

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Institute for Women's Policy Research; Hewitt Associates; Employee Benefit Research Institute.

insurance policies.

"Today, sick time is intended for casual or incidental absences," Stattner said. "The short-term disability is for more serious health conditions requiring multiple weeks away from the office."

Employers are also instituting plans that lump vacation, sick and personal days in one pool, a benefit referred to as "paid time off." A survey by Hewitt showed that 30 percent of employers offered paid time off in 2006, up from 18 percent in 2000.

The idea behind general paid time off is that employees will be more judicious in how they use sick time. But such pools often don't reflect the realities of real life, Ronza said. "What if you get sick and you use up all your time in the same year that you have a wedding planned?"

Others view the time-off pools as a sneaky way to reduce paid sick days and ease the managerial headache of keeping track of employees' separate balances of sick, personal and vacation days. When employers offer 15 days of time off instead of two weeks of vacation and two weeks of sick time, for example, the reduced number of sick days can slip by relatively unnoticed.

"It's a way of cutting back on paid time off," says Vicky Lovell, director of employment and work and life programs for the Institute for Women's Policy Research. "Employers don't have to care why someone is out."



# Oil steady in Asia near \$135 a barrel

**SINGAPORE (AP)**—Oil was steady Thursday in Asia after plummeting more than \$10 a barrel in the previous two sessions as evidence mounted that record prices are slowing U.S. demand.

Higher U.S. oil supplies, along with evidence of quickening in-

flation and slowing economic activity in the world's largest economy, have helped pull prices down from last Friday's record above \$147 a barrel, said Victor Shum, an oil analyst with consulting firm Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

"We've had a run of bearish

news the last few days," he said. "This roller-coaster volatility has left us in a near-term trading range of between about \$130 and \$145."

Midday in Singapore, light, sweet crude for August delivery was up 25 cents at \$134.85 a bar-

rel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Crude fell \$4.14 in the previous session to settle at \$134.60 a barrel, after earlier sinking as low as \$132. The drop followed a \$6.44 sell-off Tuesday, crude's biggest since the Gulf War.

Despite the two-day slide of \$10.58 a barrel, prices remain about 80 percent above where they were a year ago and up about 40 percent from the start of the year.

The Energy Information Administration reported Wednesday that U.S. crude supplies rose 3 million barrels last week. That was opposite the 3 million barrel draw analysts surveyed by energy research firm Platts had expected. Gasoline supplies also leapt higher unexpectedly.

The rise in crude and gasoline supplies shows how high motor fuel prices are starting to weaken demand from U.S. consumers in the middle of America's summer driving season, analysts said.

The Labor Department also said Wednesday that consumer

prices shot up 1.1 percent last month, the second fastest pace in 26 years. Rising energy prices accounted for two-thirds of that increase, which was far worse than expected.

Testifying before Congress for a second day on Wednesday, U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said central bank policymakers are facing "significant challenges" in stabilizing a U.S. economy troubled by weak growth and inflation.

Oil demand in developing nations, however, continues to rise and keep global crude supplies tight, Shum said.

"Only in the U.S. are we seeing significant demand erosion," Shum said. "Supplies are still struggling, and there's a reasonable chance for a resurgence in oil prices."

In other Nymex trade, heating oil futures rose 1.66 cents to \$3.8576 a gallon (3.8 liters) while gasoline prices added 0.86 cent to \$3.288 a gallon. Natural gas futures fell 13.2 cents to \$11.53 per 1,000 cubic feet.



A motorist gets ready to pump gasoline into her minivan at the Mobil Station in Andover, Mass., July 16, 2008.

## Consumer prices jump in June

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The price of a quart of milk, a plane ticket and a host of other products rose in June at nearly the fastest pace in a generation, taking an even bigger-than-expected bite out of the buying power of Americans.

In the latest shock wave to hit the economy, consumer prices rose 1.1 percent in June from the month before, far faster than the expected rate of 0.7 percent and almost double the reading from May, the Labor Department said Wednesday.

The only time in the past quarter-century that monthly inflation has been that high was in September 2005, when prices jumped 1.3 percent, mostly because Hurricane Katrina shut down oil refineries and energy prices spiked.

Consumer prices are up 5 percent over the last 12 months, the fastest one-year change since 1991.

As prices rose last month, take-home pay took a hit. Adjusting for inflation, weekly wages fell 0.9 percent in June,

the third straight monthly decline and the biggest drop in almost four years.

The news was the back half of a one-two punch on inflation. On Tuesday, the Labor Department reported that prices at the wholesale level were rising by the highest annual rate in 27 years.

Before Congress, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke wrapped up two days of testimony and repeated his concerns about inflation, also noting the housing slump, financial turmoil and credit troubles.

## Bernanke: Fannie, Freddie in no danger of failing

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Wednesday that troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are in "no danger of failing."

The Fed chief made his remarks to the House Financial Services Committee, his second day on Capitol Hill where he briefed lawmakers on the problems plaguing the economy.

Bernanke appeared amid a backdrop of fading confidence in the U.S. financial system and in the national economy.

The Fed and the Treasury Department on Sunday came to the rescue of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, offering to throw them a financial lifeline.

The two companies hold or guarantee more than \$5 trillion in mortgages—almost half of the nation's total—and are major sources of financing for the mortgage market. The Bush administration is asking Congress to temporarily increase lines of credit to Fannie and Freddie and to let the govern-

ment buy their stock. The Fed has offered to let the companies draw emergency loans.

The pledges of aid have raised concerns on Capitol Hill and elsewhere about the government's role in intervening to ease such financial troubles and the risk posed to taxpayers.

The two mortgage giants are "adequately capitalized," Bernanke said. However, "weakness of market confidence is having an effect" on the companies, making it difficult for them to raise capital.

## 'UBS, Liechtenstein aided US tax cheats'

**GENEVA (AP)**—A U.S. Senate subcommittee accused banks in Switzerland and Liechtenstein of helping wealthy Americans evade billions in taxes each year, and urged the establishment of tougher laws to combat offshore tax havens around the world.

In a report released late Wednesday, the Senate subcommittee on investigations estimated that offshore abuses were costing U.S. taxpayers about \$100 billion a year.

It recommended a range of

reforms to squeeze tax cheats, including more stringent U.S. requirements for foreign banks and harsher penalties for financial institutions failing to provide the Internal Revenue Service with details on all accounts their American clients are holding.

"Tax havens are engaged in economic warfare against the United States and the honest, hardworking American taxpayer is losing," said Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the subcom-

mittee on investigations, which belongs to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

"The iron ring of secrecy around tax haven banks and their deceptive banking practices enable and encourage tax cheats to hide assets from the United States," the Michigan Democrat said. "Congress needs to enact strong penalties on tax haven banks that help U.S. taxpayers avoid paying taxes to Uncle Sam."

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Stocks soar on drop in oil, Wells Fargo report

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wall Street at least temporarily shrugged off some of its many concerns Wednesday and bounded higher thanks to a drop in oil prices. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 276 points, or 2.5 percent, posting its best daily gain in three months. The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index also gained 2.5 percent, while the technology-dominated Nasdaq composite index surged 3.1 percent. The Dow rose 276.74, or 2.52 percent, to 11,239.28. It was the blue-chips' biggest one-day gain since April 1, when the index rose 391 points. Broader stock indicators also rose Wednesday after fluctuating in the early going. The S&P 500 index advanced 30.45, or 2.51 percent, to 1,245.36, and the Nasdaq rose 69.14, or 3.12 percent, to 2,284.85.

#### FBI probes possible home-loan fraud at IndyMac

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The FBI is investigating failed bank IndyMac Bancorp Inc. for possible fraud, an official said Wednesday of the government's latest target following the collapse of the nation's subprime mortgage market. It was not immediately clear how long the FBI's probe of the bank has been ongoing—or whether it was opened before last Friday's takeover of IndyMac by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The investigation appears to be focused on the company and not individuals who ran it, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. IndyMac Bank's assets were seized by federal regulators after the mortgage lender succumbed to the pressures of tighter credit, tumbling home prices and rising foreclosures.

#### Wells Fargo profit drops, but dividend rises

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wells Fargo gave anxious investors a pleasant surprise Wednesday, reporting a profit drop that was milder than anticipated and lifting its quarterly dividend by 10 percent. Wells Fargo's second-quarter profit fell 22 percent as more customers at the nation's fifth-largest bank failed to pay back their loans. But it raised its dividend to 34 cents from 31 cents—at a time when many other financial institutions are slashing theirs to preserve capital. The San Francisco-based company's shares soared \$6.72, or 32.8 percent, to close at \$27.23 Wednesday, after tumbling alongside other financial stocks over the last several days on worries about more U.S. mortgage losses and bank failures.

#### eBay 2Q profit rises 22 percent but outlook soft

**NEW YORK (AP)**—eBay Inc. said Wednesday that its second-quarter profit jumped 22 percent, as the online auction company enjoyed strong growth in its e-commerce sites and its PayPal payments service. But eBay's outlook for the current quarter was softer than analysts had been forecasting, and the auction company's shares fell 6.6 percent in after-hours trading. The stock had gained 4.5 percent in regular trading to close at \$28.10. San Jose, Calif.-based eBay earned \$460 million, or 35 cents per share, compared with \$376 million, or 27 cents per share, in the year-ago quarter. Excluding certain items, eBay earned 43 cents per share.

### STOCK Portfolio

#### ASIAN MARKETS

<b>AUSTRALIA</b> 4,984.600 Up 37.100 (+0.75%)	<b>HONG KONG</b> 21,768.58 Up 545.08 (+2.57%)	<b>JAKARTA</b> 1,119.42 Down 8.18 (-0.73%)
<b>TOKYO</b> 12,911.27 Up 150.47 (+1.18%)	<b>K. LUMPUR</b> 1,119.42 Down 8.18 (-0.73%)	
<b>MANILA</b> 2,393.62 Up 19.92 (+0.84%)	<b>SINGAPORE</b> 2,879.62 Up 44.30 (+1.56%)	
<b>SEOUL</b> 1,526 Up 18.6 (+1.23%)	<b>BANGKOK</b> 669.97 Down 23.44 (-3.38%)	

#### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
11,239.28  
+276.74

**NASDAQ**  
2,284.85  
+69.14

**S&P**  
1,245.36  
+30.45

#### MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0223
British Pound	0.4992
Canadian Dollar	1.0021
Chinese Renmbi	6.8144
Euro	0.6283
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7971
Indian Rupee	43.17
Indonesian Rupiah	9132.5
Japanese Yen	104.342
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2273
New Zealand Dollar	1.2934
Philippine Peso	45.47
Singapore Dollar	1.3478
South Korean Won	1009.35
Swiss Franc	1.0092
Taiwan Dollar	30.392
Thailand Baht	33.59

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press



# Nation

## More US troops may go to Afghanistan this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pentagon leader on Wednesday signaled a surge in U.S. forces in Afghanistan “sooner rather than later,” a shift that could send some units there within weeks, as officials prepare to cut troop levels in Iraq.

Senior military officials are looking across the services to identify smaller units and other equipment that could be sent to Afghanistan, according

to a defense official.

Although there are no brigade-sized units that can be deployed quickly into Afghanistan, military leaders believe they can find a number of smaller units such as aviation, engineering and surveillance troops that can be moved more swiftly, said the official, who requested anonymity because the discussions are private.

The moves are expected to

happen within weeks rather than months, the official said.

The decisions are being made against the backdrop of shifting priorities for the U.S. military, and were discussed during a meeting Wednesday of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Military leaders are weighing requests from commanders in Afghanistan for more troops, aircraft and other assistance. And they are trying

to determine the right balance between the needs of the force in Iraq, versus troops in Afghanistan who are facing a Taliban resurgence.

To date, the fight in Afghanistan has taken a back seat to Iraq, which has been the strategic priority. While Iraq will remain the top goal, it now appears the military believes there should be a more urgent emphasis on Afghanistan than

there has been.

Faced with an increasingly sophisticated insurgency, particularly along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday that sending more troops would have a significant impact on the violence.

“I think that we are clearly working very hard to see if there are opportunities to send additional forces sooner rather

than later,” Gates told Pentagon reporters. But, he added that no final decisions or recommendations have been made.

His comments suggested an acceleration in what had been plans to shift forces there early next year. And they came as the political discourse on Afghanistan as a key military priority escalated on both Capitol Hill and the presidential campaign trail.

## Fox: Jackson used N-word in off-air remark

CHICAGO (AP)—The Rev. Jesse Jackson used the N-word during a break in a TV interview where he criticized presidential candidate Barack Obama, Fox News confirmed Wednesday.

The longtime civil rights leader already came under fire this month for crude off-air comments he made against Obama in what he thought was a private



Jackson

conversation during a taping of a “Fox & Friends” news show.

In additional comments from that same conversation, first reported by TVNewser, Jackson is reported to have said Obama was “talking down to black people,” and referred to blacks with the N-word when he said Obama was telling them “how to behave.”

Though a Fox spokesman

confirmed to The Associated Press that Jackson used the slur, the network declined to release the full transcript of the July 6 show and did not air the comments.

Jackson—who is traveling in Spain—apologized in a statement

Wednesday for “hurtful words” but didn’t offer specifics.

“I am deeply saddened and distressed by the pain and sorrow that I have caused as a result of my hurtful words. I apologize again to Senator Barack Obama, Michelle

Obama, their children as well as to the American public,” Jackson said in a written statement. “There really is no justification for my comments and I hope that the Obama family and the American public will forgive me. I also pray that we,

as a nation, can move on to address the real issues that affect the American people.”

A spokeswoman for Jackson’s civil rights organization, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, said she could not confirm that Jackson used the slur.

## Bush claims privilege to withhold CIA leak records

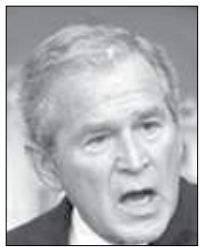
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush invoked executive privilege to keep Congress from seeing the FBI report of an interview with Vice President Dick Cheney and other records related to the administration’s leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame’s identity in 2003.

The president’s decision drew a sharp protest Wednesday from Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of House Oversight Committee, which had subpoenaed Attorney General Michael Mukasey to turn over the documents.

“This unfounded assertion of executive privilege does not protect a principle; it protects a

person,” the California Democrat said. “If the vice president did nothing wrong, what is there to hide?”

Waxman left little doubt he would soon move for a committee vote to hold Mukasey in contempt of Congress.



Bush

Bush’s assertion of privilege prevented Mukasey from complying with the House subpoena for records bearing on the unmasking of Plame at a time that the administration was trying to rebut criticism from her husband, former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson, of Bush’s rationale for going to war in Iraq.

## Senate agrees to triple anti-AIDS funding

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted Wednesday to triple spending for a much-acclaimed program that has treated and protected millions in Africa and elsewhere from the scourges of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

The 80-16 vote committed the United States to spending up to \$48 billion over the next five years for the most ambitious foreign public health program ever launched by the United States.

The legislation would replace and expand the current \$15 billion act that President Bush championed in a State of the

Union address and Congress passed in 2003. That act expires at the end of September.

In a statement, Bush said that when the program was launched in 2003, about 50,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving anti-retroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS. Today, the program supports lifesaving anti-retroviral treatment for more than 1.7 million people around the world, he said. It also has supported treatment and prevention programs that have helped HIV-positive women give birth to nearly 200,000 infants who are HIV-free.



AP

A firefighter walks to his tent in the fire camp in Carmel Valley, Calif., on Tuesday, July 15, 2008. A “spike” camp has been set up at the Carmel Valley airport that is currently housing over 900 firefighters and support staff working on the Basin Complex wildfires in the Los Padres National Forest.

## Controlled burns set to battle Calif. blazes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Firefighters set more controlled burns Wednesday to block a wildfire that already has blackened 190 square miles and destroyed 27 homes on the central California coast.

The controlled fires set Wednesday were proceeding well despite high humidity that had prevented firefighters from setting “back burns” on Tuesday.

Mandatory evacuation orders were in place for about 20 homes along the heavily wooded ridges near Carmel Valley, said Ruby Urueta, spokeswoman with the Monterey County Emergency Operations Center.

Another 200 houses were emptied in nearby Cachagua because of the fire danger. The

fire was 61 percent contained Wednesday, emergency officials said.

President Bush is scheduled to visit California on Thursday to survey fire damage with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and meet with first responders.

State officials say the nearly 2,100 separate blazes that have burned nearly 1,400 square miles since a lightning storm struck June 21 is the largest single fire event in California history. The previous largest was in October 2003 and resulted in 24 deaths.

Those blazes spread through a more populated area in Southern California, but fire officials say the smaller number of deaths and injuries is due in part to the increased focus on safety.

The only firefighter death so far has been attributed to a heart attack, said Daniel Berlant, a state fire department spokesman.

Among residents, accidents have also been few. A body found Friday in a burned-out house in Butte County was identified Wednesday as a 61-year-old man who didn’t heed evacuation requests.

“It’s important that people listen,” Berlant said. “When we put an evacuation notice out, there’s a reason. People want to defend their property, but they’re not trained, they don’t have safety gear.”

Three men and a teenager trapped by flames were rescued Wednesday from a closed fire zone near the Whiskeytown

National Recreation Area. Two were arrested for defying orders and were turned over to immigration authorities, authorities said. The third man was being treated at a hospital for third-degree burns; the teenager was treated for lesser burns and released.

In eastern Washington, fire crews gained ground on several blazes Wednesday despite gusty winds and warm temperatures.

Authorities lifted an evacuation advisory Wednesday morning for about 2,300 homes east of Spokane, where a fire has scorched 1,006 acres and destroyed 11 homes. The fire was 90 percent contained, and crews hoped to fully contain it Thursday.



# NASA moon capsule running late, full of problems

WASHINGTON (AP)—Money problems will likely force NASA to abandon its ambitious internal goal of having a new moon spaceship ready by 2013, a top space agency official told The Associated Press Wednesday.

The agency should still be able to meet its public commitment to test launch astronauts in the first Orion capsule by March 2015, the official said, unless national budget stalemates continue.

But the agency's own hurry-up plan to get the job done even earlier—with a first crew launch by 2013—will “very likely” be changed during meetings this week in Houston, said Doug Cooke, NASA's deputy associate administrator for exploration.

“We’re probably going to have to move our target date,” Cooke said in a phone interview. An actual astronaut moon land-

ing is still set for 2020. Orion initially will just orbit Earth before attempting a more complicated moon launch that also will involve unmanned rockets.

Cooke acknowledged the slipped launch target date during an interview about an internal NASA report leaked to

the Web site, Nasa Watch. The document shows that the space agency's overall moon plan has encountered financial and technical problems, which NASA says it can overcome.

The leaked report reflects typical problems of a program this early in the running, Cooke said.

“What you’re seeing is sausage-making,” he said. “I’m really satisfied with the work that’s getting done.”

The 117-page report, posted Wednesday at nasawatch.com, shows an \$80 million cost overrun this year for just one motor

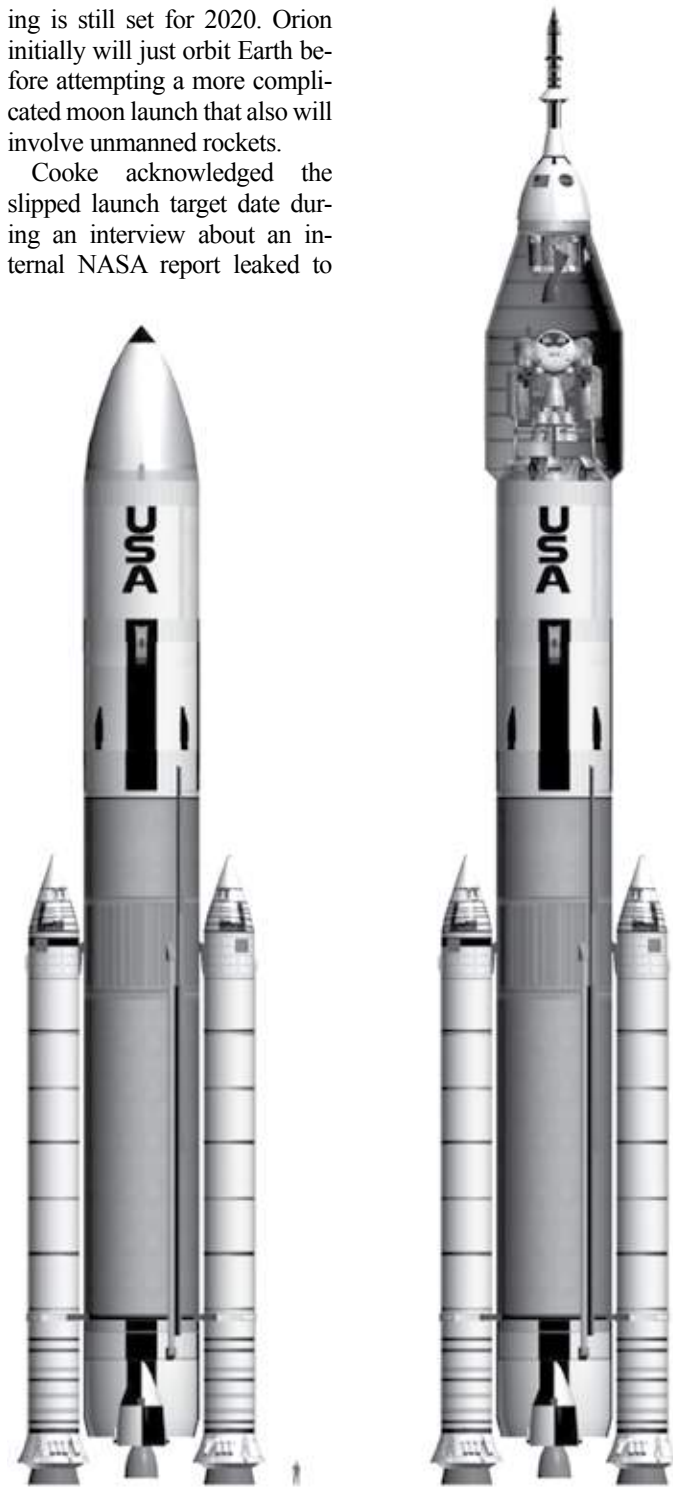
and a dozen different technical problems that the space agency put in the top risk zone, meaning the problems are considered severe. The report put the program's financial performance in that category.

Technical problems included software that may not be developed on time, the heat shield, a dangerous level of shaking during launch, and a hard-to-open hatch door. The report also said NASA's plans would short-change astronauts' daily water needs, giving them only two liters a day when medical experts say they need at least 2.5 liters.

The report showed technical problems in operations for Orion nearly doubling from May to July, with 24 items now on the most worrisome list.

Outside experts say it's too early to be too worried, but they have some concerns.

“It doesn't surprise me that there are these kinds of pains given the early stage (of development) and the long time since we did anything like this,” said John Logsdon, director of space policy at George Washington University. “NASA is trying to do this with inadequate and uncertain funding.”



This rendering released by Direct Launcher shows a rocket design that advocates say is a better alternative for returning to the moon than the Ares rockets being built by NASA. The Jupiter 232 rocket on the left would be used for cargo launches, while the version of the right could launch both cargo and astronauts. By day, the engineers work on NASA's new Ares moon rockets in Huntsville, Ala. By night, some go undercover, working on a competing design. These dissenters and their backers say their alternative rocket would be safer, cheaper and easier to build than the two Ares spacecraft, which have already cost NASA \$7 billion. The alternative project calls itself Direct 2.0.

AP

## Woman accused of poisoning son in Pa. hospital

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A Tennessee woman has been charged with attempted homicide for trying to poison her 4-month-old son at a city hospital by injecting a saltwater solution into his feeding tube, police said.

Twenty-one-year-old Amber Brewington, who was taken into custody late Tuesday following the latest alleged poisoning attempt, told investigators she was trying to speed up the boy's death to end his suffering, according to a police affidavit.

The boy, Noah King, remained in critical condition with sodium poisoning at Chil-

dren's Hospital of Pittsburgh on Wednesday.

Brewington told investigators that King was admitted to a hospital in Columbia, Tenn., in May and was later transferred to Vanderbilt University Medical Center, he suffered unexplained seizures and possible brain damage, police said.

While at the Nashville hospital, Brewington “gave her infant son four to five full syringes of high volume salt water in attempts to speed up his death,” police wrote in an affidavit. “Amber felt that she did not wish to see her son suffer.”

King was transferred to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh on July 9. Upon arrival, he had one of the highest recorded levels of sodium, even for an adult, according to the affidavit.

The boy's condition became worse after his mother visited him on Sunday and again on Tuesday night, leading to Brewington's arrest, Pittsburgh Police Cmdr. Thomas Stangrecki said.

Brewington admitted giving him another syringe of salt water on Sunday, though she denied she was trying to do it again when she was caught by a nurse Tuesday, police said.

## Police pose as pedestrians to nab errant drivers

CHICAGO (AP)—So why did officer Grace Delgado try to cross the road? To remind motorists that they must stop whenever someone steps off the curb into a crosswalk.

In an unusual undercover operation, Delgado posed as a pedestrian on a busy street while fellow officers waited for drivers to barrel past her in violation of a law that requires them yield at crosswalks, even if there is no stop sign.

Chicago this year joined a

growing number of big cities and small towns that are sending officers into traffic to make motorists pay more attention to pedestrians.

“People, they don't care,” said Delgado, whose bright pink baseball hat and orange blouse made her especially tough to miss. “It's ‘Get out of my way.’ The whole mentality is ‘Get out of my way.’”

With Delgado's help, police stopped 78 vehicles in just two hours and told them they'd

violated a law that's been on the books for years. That number easily could have been doubled, but officers stopped only drivers who kept moving after Delgado had walked four or five feet into the road.

When they were pulled over, motorists offered all kinds of explanations: One saw the pedestrian in the crosswalk but hadn't heard about the law requiring him to stop. Another knew about the law but didn't see the pedestrian.

## Police: Man kills woman, self in Missouri mall

FLORISSANT, Mo.

(AP)—A man recently divorced from his wife of more than 20 years shot and killed her inside a suburban St. Louis mall on Wednesday before committing suicide, police said. No one else was injured but the Jamestown Mall in Florissant was evacuated.

The shooter was 49 and his ex-wife was 47, but their names had not been released, St. Louis County police spokeswoman Tracy Panus said. Panus said they both lived in the nearby suburb of Hazelwood and had been married more than 20 years with grown children before recently divorcing.

The motive for the shooting just outside the Sears store had not been determined, Panus said.

Marcus Gwynn said he heard four shots as he was walking into the mall to begin his shift at a Radio Shack store.

“I seen a lady on the ground face down, then he sits on the

ground and shot himself in the head,” said Gwynn, 21.

Deborah and Michael Mingo said they were shopping at Sears when they heard several shots. She said she asked a clerk about the noise and was told it was likely construction, but a short time later people in the store were telling them to get out.

Police tape was wrapped

around the entrance to the food court near the scene of the shooting.

St. Louis County police Detective Mike Williams inspected a gray Ford Focus—the female victim's car—on the lot outside the Sears. Two of the tires were deflated, leading Williams to believe the shooter did not want the woman to flee.



AP

Steve Johnson collapses in the parking lot after arriving at the scene of a mall shooting leaving two people dead at Jamestown Mall Wednesday, July 16, 2008, in Florissant, Mo. Johnson described himself as a first cousin to both victims.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Wayward N.J. dolphins move to different river

RED BANK, N.J. (AP)—Some of the dolphins that have been entertaining spectators in a river at the New Jersey shore appear to have moved into another waterway instead of returning to the ocean. The marine mammals have been feeding on fish in the Shrewsbury River near Red Bank for the past few weeks. Federal environmental representative Teri Frady said Wednesday that wildlife officials saw the dolphins during the weekend in the connecting Navesink River. Frady says that area is more remote and fewer people will bother the dolphins there. Authorities have issued 11 citations for harassing the dolphins. An estimated 8 to 12 dolphins were in the Navesink over the weekend, down from 15 in the Shrewsbury earlier. It's unclear whether the others are back in the Atlantic.

### 6th body pulled from Calif. canal after crash

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—A sixth body was pulled from a rural, central California canal Wednesday after a collision between a septic truck and a sport utility vehicle carrying farm workers from a peach orchard. A seventh victim remained missing and is presumed dead. The latest victim was found in the swift, brackish waters of the canal about 10 miles from the wreck in Westley,

sheriff's deputies said. The victim was identified as Adrianna Garcia, 17, from Lodi. Family members and witnesses said the SUV was taking six laborers from the orchard back home to Lodi, California Highway Patrol Officer Mayolo Banuelos said. Initial reports suggested that two people had been in the truck, but investigators now believe there was only one, the driver. His body has been recovered. The cause of Tuesday's crash remained under investigation. Divers were called off the search after six hours.

### Police: N.M. suicide was similar to 'CSI' episode

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—It looked like something out of “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.” And sure enough, it was. State police said Wednesday that they solved a mysterious eastern New Mexico shooting death that was similar to a shooting depicted in a 2003 “CSI” episode. In both cases a revolver was found tied to balloons in an apparent effort to make the weapon float away. Authorities determined that Thomas Hickman committed suicide after an investigation that included a detective renting a copy of the episode. “We're not saying it's a copycat of the TV show,” state police Lt. Rick Anglada said. “We have no way to know he actually saw the episode. However, the lead agent kept hearing from people that there was a similar case from ‘CSI.’”



## Asia

# Anwar Ibrahim arrested in sodomy case

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—Police arrested Malaysia's leading opposition figure on Wednesday on suspicion that he sodomized a male aide—the second time in a decade he has faced the accusation that could send him to jail for 20 years and hobble his campaign to bring down the country's government.



Ibrahim

Anwar Ibrahim, 61, dismissed the accusation—made last month by the 23-year-old aide—as a “malicious” fabrication by the same ruling establishment that jailed him for sodomy and corruption in 1998.

“This is not a criminal case but a political case,” said Azmin Ali, vice president of Anwar's People's Justice Party.

The arrest will give some

breathing space to Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's government, which is struggling to cope with internal dissent after recent election losses, and threats by Anwar to seize power by mid-September. Abdullah's administration has denied any role in the sodomy allegation against Anwar, the only Malaysian politician to face the accusation.

Sodomy, even between consenting adults, is punishable by up to 20 years in prison in Malaysia.

His lawyers said he will remain in detention at least overnight and possibly longer.

“The excuse is that they need to take further statements” from Anwar, said Sankara Nair, one of his lawyers.

Anwar had agreed to volun-

and hit the land mine. The rebels then opened fire and a gunbattle was still raging at the site, some 370 miles south of the state capital Bhubaneswar, Nanda said.

“According to preliminary reports 20 policemen were killed in the blast,” Nanda said.

The rebels, who say they are inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, have been fighting for more than three decades in several Indian states, demanding land and jobs for agricultural laborers and the poor.

tarily submit himself for questioning at police headquarters Wednesday, but was arrested outside his house an hour before the designated time by a posse of policemen, some wearing ski masks.

“There was a lot of fear and intimidation. It was absolutely

unnecessary,” said Nair, who witnessed the arrest.

Anwar was pulled out of his car as he returned home from an engagement and was driven to the police headquarters in a car with tinted windows.

Nair said Anwar was arrested as a suspect for the alleged sod-

omy of the male aide. Anwar can be held as a suspect for up to 14 days without being charged.

The sodomy allegation revived images of a similar ordeal in 1998 when Anwar was fired as deputy prime minister and finance minister after being accused of sodomizing his family driver.

Anwar, who at the time was part of the ruling National Front coalition, was subsequently convicted and jailed in what he says was a conspiracy by then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to win a power struggle. Anwar's downfall led to massive street protests by his supporters for weeks.



## STORM AFTERMATH

A horse-drawn carriage drives along floodwaters in Manila Wednesday, July 16, 2008. Tropical storm Kalmaegi is slowly moving out of the country, bringing monsoon rains which flooded most parts of metro Manila and suspension of classes in other areas.

AP

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Cambodia says it will meet Thais on border dispute

**PREAH VIHEAR, Cambodia** (AP)—Cambodia and Thailand have agreed to meet to avert a clash over a disputed temple site, a Cambodian minister said Wednesday, as hundreds of soldiers from both countries faced off in “disputed border territory.” A spokesman for the Thai Foreign Ministry could not be reached to confirm the planned meeting. Cambodian Information Minister Khieu Kanharith said Prime Minister Hun Sen and his Thai counterpart Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej had “a cordial and amicable phone conversation” and delegates led by their defense ministers would meet Monday in Thailand to defuse tensions over competing claims to land surrounding the historic Preah Vihear temple. The temple was given World Heritage Site status last week.

### India scales down briefing on nuclear monitoring

**VIENNA, Austria** (AP)—India has scaled down and moved a briefing with the International Atomic Energy Agency on monitoring of its nuclear sites,

diplomats said Wednesday. India, which possesses nuclear weapons, had initially called a meeting with IAEA members for Friday to brief on the monitoring agreement that followed a deal with the U.S. in 2006. On Wednesday, diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity because their information was confidential said the gathering would now take place off IAEA premises and include only senior agency officials and its 35-member board of governors. The U.N. body's board has to approve the monitoring deal before India can do business with 45 nations that export nuclear fuel and technology. It is expected to do that at an Aug. 1 meeting.

### Sri Lankan military: Soldiers capture rebel base

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka** (AP)—Sri Lankan soldiers captured a key naval base used by the Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern part of the country, the military said Wednesday, a day after fighting in the region reportedly killed 51 rebels and a soldier. Separately, air force helicopters destroyed two rebel boats fleeing from the fallen base, according to the military. Soldiers overran the rebel-held coastal town of Vidattaltivu on

Wednesday, taking control of an important base used by the Sea Tiger naval force, said Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara, the military spokesman. Nanayakkara said that the rebels carried out most of their smuggling activities and sea attacks from the base, which has a natural harbor that enabled them to hide their boats.

### US abandons Afghan outpost where 9 troops died

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—U.S. troops abandoned a remote outpost in eastern Afghanistan where militants killed nine of their comrades this week, officials said Wednesday, in another sign of the struggle facing foreign and Afghan security forces strung out along the mountainous border. Elsewhere in the frontier region, NATO launched artillery and helicopter strikes in Pakistan after coming under insurgent rocket fire, officials said. On Tuesday, the insurgents drove out the handful of police left behind to defend government offices in the village, but 50 more officers were deployed Wednesday and soon regained control, senior provincial police official Ghoolam Farouq said.

## RP govt: Deal reached with Muslim rebels

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine government has reached agreement with Muslim rebels on a key issue that will allow stalled peace talks to resume, top officials said Wednesday.

Hermogenes Esperon, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's top adviser on the peace process, said secret talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have been going on in Malaysia, which has brokered the peace negotiations and provided the bulk of an international truce team in the troubled southern Philippines.

Esperon said the two sides

resolved a sticking point in the critical issue of ancestral domain, which includes an autonomous Muslim region, and that a memorandum of understanding would be finalized July 24, with formal peace talks to resume afterward.

“The president has been informed about it and she is very happy,” he said. “She congratulated the government panel.”

He said assistance to foster develop in the resource-rich but impoverished Mindanao would follow soon.

While a key hurdle may have been resolved, a full peace deal

likely will take time.

“There are still challenges ahead, but something very significant has been achieved with the resolution of these issues today,” Rodolfo Garcia, the government's top negotiator, told The Associated Press by phone from Kuala Lumpur.

The MILF warned last Friday that a 5-year-old truce could collapse unless the two sides resumed formal talks. U.S. and Philippine officials hope a peace pact can transform the southern Philippines into a booming economic hub instead of combat zones that are a breeding ground for terrorism.

## RP rebels attack jail, fail to free comrade

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Communist rebels attacked a southern Philippine jail with mortar shells and small-arms fire in a bid to free a detained comrade, but security forces repulsed the raid, the military said Thursday.

Regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico said army troops backed by two armored vehicles responded within minutes of the attack late Wednesday and prevented the Sarangani provincial jail from being overrun.

“They were looking for a shock effect. If the jail was less defended, they would have gotten inside,” he said. “Our response was coordinated.”

No casualties were reported, Rico said. He said an initial investigation indicated the rebels were planning to free a detained comrade, but refused to provide details.

Police set up checkpoints in the area, about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of Manila, as part of security measures, he said.

The New People's Army

rebels did not comment immediately.

The rebels have stepped up their 40-year-old Maoist insurgency since quitting peace talks with the Philippine government four years ago.

In a recent statement, the rebels, thought to have 5,000-7,000 members, said the ongoing tactical offensives were meant to punish President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government for “despicable crimes of large-scale corruption, imperialist plunder and fascist atrocities.”



## World

# Car bomb in Iraq kills 18, including children

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—A car bomb killed at least seven children and 11 other people in a northern city, providing a reminder that militants still can cause casualties despite security improvements that led U.S. troops to return a southern province to Iraqi control Wednesday.

Ninety people also were injured in the blast at a popular outdoor market in Tal Afar, said a police official, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The city, a one-time stronghold of Sunni insurgents 260 miles northwest of Baghdad, was targeted in offensives by U.S. and Iraqi troops that prompted American leaders to describe it as a success story in the effort to stabilize Iraq. But sporadic attacks continue.

Also in the north, a car bomb killed two civilians in Mosul, police reported. The two attacks came a day after suicide bombers killed at least 28 people in Baqouba, northeast of Baghdad.

South of Baghdad, the formal transfer in the Qadisiyah province reflected a drop in violence and instability across Iraq and marked another success for Iraq's increasingly assertive government, which seeks a timeline from the United States for the withdrawal of American forces.

Qadisiyah, a mostly Shiite region, was the 10th of Iraq's 18 provinces to return to Iraqi authority, with U.S. and Polish troops relinquishing control at a military ceremony.

"This is further evidence of our goal to have security control in the whole of Iraq by the end of 2008," said Mouwafak al-Rubaie, Iraq's national security adviser.

In a statement, U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker and Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander

of U.S. forces in Iraq, said Iraqi security forces in Qadisiyah had been operating "independently" the last two months.

"We will assist as requested," the statement said, adding that Iraqi provincial and military leadership would have to create long-term se-

curity that can lead to economic development.

In Washington, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said he expected to be able to recommend further American troop reductions in Iraq later this year if security continues to improve.

## Anglicans meet as schism threat looms

**CANTERBURY, England (AP)**—The Lambeth Conference, a once-a-decade summit of the world's Anglican bishops starting this week, will be a tense, closely watched family reunion.

The Anglican Communion has been splintering since 2003, when the Episcopal Church consecrated the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire.

The meeting is considered a measure of the health of the global fellowship, and on the basis of attendance alone,

the communion looks fragile. About one-quarter of Anglican bishops—conservatives mostly from Africa—are boycotting the conference.

The 650 or so church leaders who are participating are a mix of traditionalists and liberals with divergent ideas on what Anglicans should believe.

Overseeing the get-together is Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the Anglican spiritual leader. As the "first among equals," he has no authority to force a compromise. Still, he bears

the heavy burden of trying to keep the centuries-old communion together.

"In my view, the split has already taken place," said David Steinmetz, an expert in Christian history at Duke Divinity School in Charlotte, North Carolina. "The interesting question—still unanswered—is how wide and deep will it grow?"

The Anglican Communion is a fellowship of churches that trace their roots to the missionary work of the Church of England. The Episcopal Church is the Anglican body in the U.S.

## Benedict keeps to West in travel

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)**—While he didn't expect to travel much, Pope Benedict XVI is actually keeping pace with his globe-trotting predecessor John Paul II. The difference is their destinations.

John Paul, only 58 when he assumed the papacy, made extensive tours of the developing world, with stops in Catholic strongholds and some of the world's poorest countries among his first nine pilgrimages. Benedict, now 81, has stayed mainly in the affluent West.

With the exception of Brazil and a trip to Islamic Turkey, Benedict's itinerary reads much like the list released by the Vatican last week of the countries whose Catholics and dioceses contribute the most to the Holy See: the United States, Germany, Spain, Italy, Austria.

Benedict is marking the Church's World Youth Day in this splendid city of First World opulence and is expected to announce that the next global youth event will be in Madrid, Spain.

The German-born pope has



In this photo released by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI wears an Australian police cap during his meeting with a former Australian Police officer at the Kenthurst Study Center in Sydney, Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

made no secret of his interest in Catholicism in the West, particularly Europe, where Mass attendance is very low and many churches are empty.

On the plane taking him from Rome to Sydney, Benedict said the church in the West was in

"crisis" because people believe they no longer need God.

He clearly has not made the developing world a travel priority—Benedict's next scheduled trip is to France in September—but there are those who think he should.

## FBI: Ex-driver helped them try to track bin Laden

**GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)**—A one-time driver for Osama bin Laden helped the FBI try to track down his boss after being captured in Afghanistan, his former interrogators testified Wednesday.

Salim Hamdan led agents to the al-Qaida chief's compounds in Kandahar and mapped out his movements among safehouses, training camps and other remote corners of Afghanistan in the month following the Sept. 11 attacks, FBI special agent Robert Fuller said at a pretrial hearing.

The U.S. military is now preparing to use the interrogations against Hamdan at the first American war-crimes trial since World War II. The Yemeni prisoner faces a maximum life sentence if convicted of conspiracy and supporting terrorism.

Hamdan's Pentagon-appointed attorney, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Brian Mizer, said the U.S. is not sufficiently taking into account



Salim Ahmed Hamdan is seen in this undated file photo.

the help that Hamdan provided following his capture.

"It's awfully suspicious for someone who is a hard-core al-Qaida member as prosecutors claim," he told reporters.

One interrogator from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Michael St. Ours, said Hamdan acknowledged being

close enough to bin Laden to know he was planning a major operation a week before the Sept. 11 attacks.

"He told that us after 9/11 took place, he asked bin Laden if that was the operation he was talking about, to which he said 'Yes,'" St. Ours said.

Hamdan, whose trial is scheduled to begin next week, was captured by Afghan forces at a roadblock in November 2001 and turned over to the U.S., which quickly realized his value in the hunt for bin Laden.

He drew maps identifying key locations including a guesthouse frequented by al-Qaida members, according to testimony Wednesday. Hamdan's assistance continued after he arrived at Guantanamo in May 2002.

"I was trying to gain information from an individual who could help us," said St. Ours, who questioned Hamdan here three times the month he arrived in Cuba.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Gunman wounds 6 in Jordan's capital

**AMMAN, Jordan (AP)**—A gunman shot and wounded six people near a Roman amphitheater in Jordan's capital Wednesday, authorities said. The gunman shot himself in the head as he was chased by police, and was in critical condition, Jordan's state minister for information, Nasser Judeh, said. The six victims were not seriously injured, he added. A police official identified the assailant as Thaer al-Wehidi, 19, a resident of Baqaa camp, the largest of 11 Palestinian refugee settlements in Jordan. Judeh said the victims included four Lebanese, an Arab-Israeli woman and their Jordanian bus driver. He described the nighttime shooting as a "criminal" incident, and said it did not appear terrorist-related.

#### Pope backs Australian apology to Aborigines

**SYDNEY, Australia (AP)**—Pope Benedict XVI has praised the Australian government for its apology to the country's indigenous Aborigines for past injustices. Benedict made the remarks in a short speech Thursday in his first public appearance as part of the Roman Catholic church's youth festival in Australia, after meeting Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. He lauded the government's "courageous decision to acknowledge the injustices committed against the indigenous peoples in the past," which he said offered hope for people all over the world seeking justice and opportunity. Rudd in February formally apologized to Aborigines as one of his first official acts as prime minister, and has made closing a huge gap in economic and health status between indigenous people and other Australians a priority of his government.

#### Thousands cheer 5 released Lebanese militants

**BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)**—Five Lebanese militants got a hero's welcome from tens of thousands of cheering Hezbollah supporters and kisses from the U.S.-backed prime minister Wednesday after being set free by Israel in exchange for the bodies of two Israeli soldiers. The lopsided exchange was hailed as a triumph by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who declared that the "age of victories has come," and solidified the Iran-backed militant group's rising political power in Lebanon and the wider Arab world. For Israel the swap closed a painful chapter of its 2006 war in Lebanon, but it prompted critics to question whether trading prisoners for bodies would encourage future kidnappings by militant groups.

#### Canada won't seek return of Gitmo detainee

**TORONTO (AP)**—Canada will not seek the return of a young detainee at Guantanamo Bay, officials said Wednesday, a day after the release of a video showing the teenage prisoner sobbing for his mother and pleading for Canada's help. A spokesman for Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper said footage of Toronto-born terror suspect Omar Khadr being interrogated by Canadian officials in 2003 will not affect his government's position. "These videos were in possession of the previous government when they decided to pursue the judicial process for Mr. Khadr to have his day in court in Guantanamo," Harper's chief spokesman Kory Teneycke told The Associated Press. Khadr is accused of throwing a grenade that killed a U.S. Special Forces soldier during a 2002 firefight in Afghanistan, when he was 15. He could face life in prison if convicted.



# Off the Wall

## Child finds a woman's missing diamond ring

**BRYANT, Ark. (AP)**—A 6-year-old girl who found what she thought was a fake diamond ring in a Wal-Mart parking lot has helped reunite a Benton newlywed with her missing \$9,000 engagement ring.

Haley Reep Wagon lost her 1.26-carat diamond ring at a Bryant Wal-Mart on Tuesday. She reported it missing, and Bryant police reviewed Wal-Mart's surveillance videos and saw that a child picked up the ring.

"I saw a little girl pick up the ring in the parking lot, but I don't think the girl was trying to steal the ring and I don't think the family with her was even aware," Bryant police Detective Todd Crowson

said. "She probably didn't even know that it is a real ring."

Police saw the family's vehicle, and were able to determine which Saline County dealership sold it to them. From there, they were able to find out who the truck was registered to—Michael Wheaton of Bryant.

"I got a call about a young lady losing a ring and a little girl picking it up and I said, 'OK, you've got my attention,'" Wheaton said. "I came down to the station and when he showed me the picture, I said, 'That's my brother from Chicago and his kids.'"

Wheaton determined that his 12-year-old daughter, Destiny, had the ring after her 6-year-old

cousin gave it to her. Destiny said the ring, which she thought was fake, was in the back of Wheaton's truck.

"I couldn't believe it, especially when I saw the size of the diamond," Wheaton said. "It had been in my truck for three days. If Detective (Crowson) wouldn't have called me, who knows what would have happened to it. It could have ended up in my daughter's dresser or something."

Wagon—who was married June 7—got her ring back on Friday.

"I can't believe I got it back," Wagon said. "I am just so happy. I just don't know what else to say. This just makes my day."

## Boy, tracks speeders with toy radar



AP  
Landon Wilburn, 11, points his Hot Wheels brand radar gun to see how fast an oncoming SUV is driving on Taylorsville Road past the Stone Lakes subdivision in Louisville, Ky.

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)**—Police can't be everywhere, so 11-year-old Landon Wilburn is on patrol in the Stone Lakes subdivision in Louisville. Landon told The Courier-Journal he used to shout at speeders to slow down—then had a better idea.

Dressed in a reflective vest, wearing a bicycle helmet and armed with a Hot Wheels brand radar gun, he points and records the speed of passing traffic.

The boy also carries a flashlight with a built-in siren.

Subdivision resident George

Ayers said he has seen drivers lock up their brakes when they saw Landon clocking them.

Officials say the city will install speed humps in the neighborhood if 70 percent of residents agree and are willing to put up half the money.

## Cancer survivor wins \$100,000 dream wedding

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)**—A Tampa bride-to-be who defied doctors' expectations after being told she had a year to live four years ago celebrated another victory Tuesday—she and her fiancée won a \$100,000 dream wedding.

Courtney Dempsey, 33, and Gary Courtney, 37, were among 40,000 couples who entered US Magazine's wedding contest. The prize includes a dress and

honeymoon.

"We're beyond thrilled. We're actually in a state of shock right now," Dempsey said.

Dempsey was diagnosed with late-stage melanoma four years ago and doctors told her she had less than a year to live. She survived beyond that and began dating Courtney. But soon after, doctors said she needed a double mastectomy.

Courtney asked Dempsey to

move in with him so he could help her recover.

The couple is planning a September wedding.

As for her married name, Dempsey says she'll follow tradition and take her groom's name, meaning she'll go by Courtney Courtney.

"I love it. I'm in sales. No one will ever forget my name," she said.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### On force 29 minutes, officer's squad car wrecked

**HOBART, Ind. (AP)**—An officer's squad car was nearly totaled in a crash less than a half hour into his first day on the city police force. Officer Tim Pochron was inside his house early Monday when someone smashed into his new squad car parked outside. "Pochron was 29 minutes into the first day of his new job when his parked squad car was struck," Hobart police Lt. Steve Houck said. A man drove his car into a tree and Pochron's car, police said. The man tested positive for drugs, was arrested and taken to a hospital. The force of the collision bent the rear axle of the squad car. Pochron, 26, was sworn in last week. He was to start his first day Monday on the morning shift. He previously worked as a police officer in the neighboring Lake County city of Lake Station.

#### Woman accused of trying to bribe Wis. police

**WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (AP)**—Wisconsin authorities say an Iron Mountain, Mich., woman tried to get out of a drunken driving arrest by offering sex and \$10,000 to a police officer. Wit-

nesses called police last Friday when they saw a suspected intoxicated driver with the Michigan license plate "TROUBLE" leave a Wisconsin Dells parking lot. A criminal complaint said 30-year-old Elizabeth Ann Kommes was given a sobriety test, was arrested, then made her offer. Kommes is charged with drunken driving as a fifth offense, bribing a public official and driving with a revoked license. A message was left for Kommes at her Iron Mountain residence on Wednesday.

#### Woman accused of smacking beau with toilet seat

**FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP)**—Police arrested a couple after the woman allegedly hit her boyfriend with a toilet seat. The woman, 18, told police that she found her boyfriend smoking cocaine in their bathroom and turned on the shower to try and wash away the drugs. The pair argued and when he refused to give up the drugs, authorities say the woman hit him with the toilet seat. The boyfriend was charged with cocaine possession and later released on bond. The woman faces a battery charge and was released without posting bond.



### INVITATION TO BIDS

#### WATER TASK FORCE ITB08-GOV-078



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the REHABILITATION OF ISLEY WATER RESERVOIR in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- General cleaning of the interior of the tank, including removal of all accumulated sediments on the floor of the tank. Sediments to be disposed of at an approved location such as the Marpi Sanitary Landfill.
- General cleaning of the tank's exposed exterior, including the removal of all plant growth on the roof, water blasting of the tank's exposed exterior and removal of all debris.
- Interior and exterior painting including the demolition and removal of existing appurtenances and accessories, and the installation of new accessories as specified in the Construction Documents, including interior and exterior manhole rungs, drying of the interior of the tank, patching cracks and crevices and water blasting where required for a clean surface. The tank floor may require patching of concrete.
- Painting the interior and exterior surfaces where indicated. The specifications Section 07110 for the exterior coating and Section 09900 for the interior coating, specify a particular painting product and paint system, but the specifications allow the contractor to bid an "or equal", paint system. The paint system bid must be an integrated system whereby the manufacturer certifies and warrants the product for a minimum of ten years. The painting system shall be compatible with the surface preparation products and be acceptable by the US EPA for use in a potable water reservoir.
- Periodic inspections, verification of paint thicknesses and leak testing as well as the final clean-up shall be considered a part of the total performance. All records shall be turned over to the Water Task Force Program Manager upon completion and acceptance of the work.

A non-refundable payment of \$150 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **July 21, 2008** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., on August 5, 2008**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing, addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, and received no later than 4:30 PM on **August 4, 2008**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB08-GOV-078". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **August 19, 2008**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **August 19, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 19, 2008**, and must be received no later than **August 28, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 pm local time, **August 29, 2008**. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 pm local time on **August 20, 2008**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez,  
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement and Supply



# Science & Technology

## Japan cautious in iPhone's bid for world dominance

**TOKYO** (AP)—Kentaro Tohyama is proud of his new iPhone. He stood overnight in line to get it when the device became available in Japan for the first time. But the 29-year-old computer engineer isn't about to part with his made-in-Japan cell phone either.

That kind of cautious response to the July 11 arrival of Apple Inc.'s phone appears common in Japan.

The iPhone was welcomed here with long lines of gadget fans. But it's also being seen

as shockingly alien to this nation's quirky and closed mobile world, somewhat like the 19th Century "black ships" of U.S. Commodore Matthew Perry that forced an isolationist Japan to open to the West.

Japan's cloistered mobile system has its own icons for e-mail and other unique tools. That means many people, even iPhone fans like Tohyama, are likely to stick to their old-style familiar communication circles.

"I don't want my friends to

think I'm this uncool, cold-hearted person," Tohyama said.

For example, young people in Japan take for granted the ability to share phone numbers, e-mail addresses and other contact information by beaming it from one phone to another over infrared connections. Being without those instantaneous exchanges would be the death knell on the Japanese dating circuit.

While the iPhone has Bluetooth wireless links, it has no infrared connection.

The iPhone lacks other tech-

nology long available on Japanese cell phones, such as digital TV broadcasts, a built-in camcorder, voice recognition and an "electronic wallet" function.

Japanese cell phone customers also might struggle with the fact that using the iPhone re-

quires both hands. The Japanese style of texting relies mainly on a thumb—so much so that experienced users are dubbed "oyayubi zoku" or "thumb tribe."

Also missing from Steve Jobs' much-praised design: a hole in the handset for hanging trinkets. Westerners may scoff at them as childish, but having them is a common social practice in Japan.

For all these reasons, analysts say it's unclear whether the iPhone will catch on with the masses in Japan or end up a fad with the computer-savvy niche.

Sales so far in Japan are hard to discern. Apple said it sold 1 million iPhones in the first three days its newest model was on the market, but the company offered no regional breakdown.

Softbank Corp., the Japanese carrier of the iPhone, said it sold out of the devices on the first day. But it did not reveal how many had been available. One clue comes from GfK Marketing Services Japan Ltd., which said Softbank sold half of all mobile phones in Japan that day, up from a typical 19 percent.

## Newspaper reports Microsoft, AOL continue talks

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Executives from Microsoft Corp. and Time Warner Inc.'s AOL are trying to advance discussions on a possible combination that could give the software maker an alternative to a deal with Yahoo Inc., a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Word of a meeting follows a breakdown in negotiations between Microsoft and Yahoo over the weekend, one that led activist investor Carl Icahn to step up efforts Monday to replace Yahoo's board in an Aug.

1 shareholder vote.

AOL has been in continual discussions with both Yahoo and Microsoft, and previous talks led Google Inc. to buy a 5 percent stake in AOL for \$1 billion in December 2005. Yahoo and Google also have separately agreed to a broad advertising partnership.

The Wall Street Journal, citing undisclosed people familiar with the matter, said the Microsoft-AOL discussions remained preliminary but would involve the companies' online opera-

tions. There were no indications the two companies are any nearer to a deal.

Microsoft and Time Warner officials declined comment Wednesday.

Microsoft shares rose \$1.05, or 4 percent, to \$27.19 in late afternoon trading Wednesday, while Time Warner shares were up 80 cents, or 5.8 percent, to \$14.72. Yahoo shares rose 87 cents, or 4 percent, to \$22.41, while Google's stock went up \$15.44, or 3 percent, to \$532.53.



In this July 11, 2008 file photo, customers waiting in line to buy the iPhone 3G celebrate as sales begin in Tokyo.

## Pittsburgh abuzz with robotic art

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—A green roller coaster twists above the entrance to the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. But this attraction isn't for human riders—the coaster's cars are filled with plants and a solar panel that triggers the ride to stop and start.

The coaster is one of 11 "Big-Bot" robotic art installations in a two-week citywide celebration of robotics, dubbed Robot 250 to coincide with Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary.

"It bends the idea of what robotics is about and who it's for," said Illah Nourbakhsh, an

associate professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute and one of the originators of the Robot 250 idea. He hopes the project shows that rather than just being for industrial automation or tinkering engineers, robots can give everyday people a new way to express themselves.

The prelude to Robot 250 included workshops for dozens of teachers so that kids and adults could create their own robots. The results were robots big and small, complex and simple: One woman used a Polaroid camera and other parts to create a robot

that took pictures of cars speeding in front of her home. One group made a conceptual robot that would automatically salt the city's bridges in the winter, to encourage more people to walk them.

Kyle Buzard, 11, worked with several of his seventh-grade classmates to create robotic flower petals decorated with images to represent good—healthy things like fruits and vegetables—and bad, such as alcohol abuse or drugs. "We wanted to build a robot that would show how we could help the community," Kyle said.

## Review: Facebook Scrabble flashy, but not better

**SEATTLE** (AP)—A sanctioned version of Scrabble for Facebook, released this week by video game maker Electronic Arts Inc., boasts animated graphics and true-to-the-board-game design.

But underneath its flashy exterior, the new Scrabble's features are very similar to those of its wildly popular but unauthorized competitor, Scrabulous. And that makes me wonder whether lots of people will switch unless, as threatened, Scrabble rights holders Hasbro Inc. and Mattel Inc. shut Scrabulous down for copyright infringement.

When I fired up the offi-

cial Scrabble game, my first thought was: There goes my favorite office time-waster.

Where Scrabulous uses text links and muted colors—giving me the illusion, at least, that my co-workers won't notice when I'm playing—Scrabble employs rich reds and blues and sends digital replicas of the game's iconic wooden tiles dancing across the screen.

The two versions—both of which are free—offer most of the same bells and whistles. They each have a built-in instant-messaging application, a dictionary for looking things up and a list of Scrabble's precious elements: valid two-letter

words. Scrabble's design is more polished, though, which helped one of my opponents discover features he didn't know existed in Scrabulous, such as an archive of completed games.

Beyond the bolder, more professional look, Scrabble's designers added numerous cosmetic touches that set it apart from the minimalist, two-dimensional appearance of Scrabulous, which was created by two brothers in India.

The Scrabble tile rack is much larger, and it's easier to rearrange letters by dragging them with the mouse. Buttons to shuffle or alphabetize the tiles are big and easy to identify, as opposed to the tiny, unlabeled dots that serve as buttons on Scrabulous.

When I play Scrabulous, I have a hard time remembering what the blue and red squares mean—double letter? Triple word? Scrabble cuts the guessing with labels like "DL" for "double letter," though it veers from the board game's traditional design by adding green and orange squares for more clarity.

It took several turns for me to get used to so much motion on my screen—Scrabble's designers seemed to animate everything they could think of. Buttons come to life when the mouse passes over. Letter tiles sit charmingly crooked when I place them on the board, then straighten themselves out when I click "Play."



In this artist's rendering provided by Electronic Arts, a sanctioned version of Scrabble for Facebook, released this week by video game maker Electronic Arts Inc., is shown.



# All's fun in love and World of Warcraft

By BRAD WILCOX  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cynthia Murdock caught the World of Warcraft bug from her husband—and at first it was just a matter of survival.

Brad, Cynthia's husband, had played the hugely popular video game for years before he introduced his wife to it in 2007 when an expansion of the game (World of Warcraft: The Burning Crusade) was introduced.

"When we first started dating, I didn't play, and he played a lot," recalled Cynthia. "I started playing because I got sick of just lying around watching TV and trying to crochet."

Besides, noted Brad, "We're sitting side by side while we're playing so we can talk to each other. We're talking about what we're doing and how our day was while we're playing." (Here's how serious they are about the game: They've re-

moved their dining room table and replaced it with an L-shaped desk capable of supporting two computers.)

Frank Pearce, founding member and senior vice president of product development for Blizzard Entertainment—the game's developer and production company—believes he knows why couples such as the Murdocks might prefer staying in all weekend playing Warcraft to going out.

"There's a huge social element to the game. We've had this huge massive community grow out of the experience," Pearce said. "The community is really a big factor that draws people into the game and keeps



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cynthia and Brad Murdock of Santa Clarita, Calif., play "World of Warcraft" side by side.

them in the game as well."

For the uninitiated, World of Warcraft is what's known in the trade as a massively multiplayer online role-playing game, or MMORPG. People from all over the world participate simultaneously in these games in

which participants are integral characters in a virtual world. The game has 10 million subscribers worldwide.

Unlike most video games targeted at younger men, Warcraft has succeeded in bringing women to the game with a diversity of features.

"It's a social experience; it's not just an entertainment experience," Pearce said.

In fact, many women play because of the social aspect. "It's real-time interaction with other people, and you're not just sit-

ting there fighting against some boss (enemy) that doesn't have a brain behind it," said Cynthia. "I really, really like playing with other people."

The latest expansion of the game, World of Warcraft: Wrath of the Lich King, is rumored to be coming within the next year, although Blizzard would not give a specific release date.

"We typically try to avoid launch windows until we're pretty sure we can achieve them," Pearce said.

The Murdocks say that World

of Warcraft has brought them closer together and saved them a ton of money in the process.

Of course, some wives of gamers aren't buying. Michael Akers, a waiter at a Kennesaw, Ga., restaurant, prefers to wait for his wife to fall asleep before logging into the World of Warcraft. A self-described recluse, Akers seldom ventures out of the house, other than to go to work, but still wants to be connected to the outside world. Playing the game allows him to do that.

"My friends all know that I don't like talking on the phone or going to parties. I'm a bit of a hermit," Akers said.

Akers has yet to persuade his wife, Andrea, to purchase an L-shaped desk for their dining room and pull up a chair alongside him to play the game.

"I want to play all the time, but I have to at least spend some time with the wife," Akers said by phone. "It's funny, because her twin sister plays (Warcraft) with her husband all the time."

When World of Warcraft debuted, according to Pearce, nobody on the design team had any idea how popular the title would become.

He knows that for some players, the game can be addictive. Warned Pearce: "I think it's up to each player to decide what the point of the game is for them."

## Adobe releases tools to improve Flash video search

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Internet users will now have an easier time finding sites that rely heavily on the popular Flash video format.

Adobe Systems Inc., the format's developer, has released a customized version of its Flash Player software that allows Google Inc.'s search engine and others to see the elements of Web pages embedded with Flash content the same way a human would.

Search crawlers, the programs that find and index content for search engines, currently have a difficult time "seeing" non-text formats.

Although they can often index

static text and links within basic Flash files, many Web pages associated with Flash video are dynamically generated on the fly as visitors are ready to view them. And some Web pages are now designed almost entirely in Flash, with menus and other features embedded within the Flash video.

Adobe's new tools help search crawlers navigate dynamic Flash pages more easily. Google's crawlers, for instance, will be able to click buttons along the way and remember the information for the index.

"Improving how we crawl dynamic content will ultimately enhance the search experience

for our users," Bill Coughran, Google's senior vice president of engineering, said in a statement.

Google already is using the new tools and Yahoo Inc. plans to soon. Adobe plans to extend support to other search engines.

Web designers don't need change the way they do anything to accommodate the upgrade.

There are limits, however. Google is indexing only actual text within Flash files—not text presented as images such as the words on a street sign. So Google's YouTube video clips still aren't covered because they don't contain embedded text.

**Q: I've got an old mix CD, and I don't know the names of all the songs on it. Is there any way to look them up online?**

**A:** Music-manager programs such as iTunes and Windows Media Player can look up song titles on mass-produced CDs by matching the sequence of track times to an online database, but they can't do that with one-of-a-kind or few-of-a-kind compilations.

Assuming you're not dealing with instrumentals, you can try searching the Web for an unusual phrase in an unknown song's lyrics. But you may have better results with a specialized music-tagging program that will analyze multiple characteristics in a song, not just its time, to identify it.

A site called MusicBrainz (musicbrainz.org) offers a few

## HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



free programs to do this job, such as Picard for Windows and the charmingly named iEat-Brainz for Mac OS X. I tested the latter — a simple program that elegantly integrates with your iTunes library — on two mix-CD mystery tracks, and it labeled both correctly.

**Q: Can I safely load the copy of GoBack I used with my old Win 98 SE computer onto the XP machine my office handed down to me?**

**A:** Most programs written for an older release of Windows will work in a newer ver-

sion, but that's not the case with system-utility programs such as Symantec's GoBack, which lets you undo changes to your files. Unless the developer of the utility you're considering specifically lists your release as compatible with your copy of Windows, forget about installing it.

This is also often the case with drivers, the software components that let peripherals plug into Windows. For example, if you get a new computer, ignore the CD that came with your old printer and download the latest drivers for it from the printer vendor's Web site.

## Web-based program gives the blind Internet access

**SEATTLE (AP)**—Blind people generally use computers with the help of screen-reader software, but those products can cost more than \$1,000, so they're not exactly common on public PCs at libraries or Internet cafes. Now a free new Web-based program for the blind aims to improve the situation.

It's called WebAnywhere, and it was developed by a computer science graduate student at the University of Washington. Unlike software that has to be installed on PCs, WebAnywhere is an Internet application that can make Web surfing accessible to the blind on most any

computer.

The developer, Jeffrey Bigham, hopes it lets blind people check a flight time on a public computer at the airport, plan a bus route at the library or type up a quick e-mail at an Internet cafe.

To get WebAnywhere running, a blind person has to manage to get online, which can be complicated on a computer not already set up to give verbal feedback. But Bigham's research found that Web-savvy blind people often know plenty of keyboard tricks and when to ask for help.

Once online, a blind Web surfer can use the WebAny-

where browser, which can link to and then read out loud any page—as long as the computer has speakers or a headphone jack. The program can skip around the section titles, tab through charts or read the page from top to bottom.

WebAnywhere could benefit from some tweaking but it's a big improvement over a total lack of public access, says Lindsay Yazzolino, a blind Brown University student who has a summer job at the University of Washington.

Yazzolino, 19, would like to see a better search function and fewer keystrokes required for navigation around Web pages, but she loves the fact that the program is free.

Bigham says he hopes others will make improvements to his program, which is open-source to invite tinkering. He doesn't have a personal connection to the issue of computer accessibility—except through his fellow students who are blind—but recognizes the area as wide open for programmers.

His faculty adviser, professor Richard Ladner, hopes a commercial search engine will adopt WebAnywhere as a module. Ladner's next dream is for Web developers to keep blind people in mind when they design their pages—a change that could make information easier for everyone to find.



AP

Lindsay Yazzolino, a Brown University student, demonstrates WebAnywhere, a new Web-based application developed by a computer science graduate student at the University of Washington that provides verbal feedback and enables blind people to use any Internet-connected computer, Friday, July 11, 2008, at the University of Washington in Seattle.



## Life & Style

# New sport combines boxing and chess

**BERLIN (AP)**—Nikolay Sazhin almost knocked out his opponent with a blow to the chin in the second round. But he had to take the queen to win the match.

In front of 1,000 cheering fans one recent Saturday night, Sazhin moved his bishop to go in for the kill and won the world championship of chess boxing, a weird hybrid sport that combines as many as five rounds of pugilism with a game of chess.

The combatants switch back and forth between boxing and chess—repeatedly putting their gloves on and taking them off, so that they can move the pieces around the board without clumsily knocking them over—in a sort of brains-and-brawn biathlon.

“It’s the No. 1 thinking game and the No. 1 fighting game,” said Iepe Rubingh, the sport’s 32-year-old founder.

Rubingh’s inspiration was “Cold Equator,” a 1992 French comic book in which two heavyweight boxers beat each other’s brains out for 12 rounds and then play a 45-hour game of chess.

“That’s not functional. So I thought about how it could work,” Rubingh said.

In his version, a chessboard is brought into the ring on a table and the combatants play four minutes, after which the board is wheeled off very carefully so that the pieces don’t fall over. Then the fighters put on the gloves and trade punches for a round, after which the board is brought back. The pattern is repeated over and over. The chess game can last up to 24 minutes.



In this Nov. 3, 2007 file photo, U.S. chess boxer David Depto, right, moves a piece with his taped hand during a chess boxing world championship against German Frank Stoldt, left, organized by the World Chess Boxing Organisation (WCBO) in Berlin, Germany. Chess boxing combines the sports of chess and boxing in alternating rounds.

If you knock your opponent out, the chess is over, too, and you win the match. If you beat your opponent at chess, then the boxing is over, and you are the victor. In the case of a draw at the chessboard, the boxer with more points in the ring is declared the winner.

Rubingh uses an electronic chessboard that lets spectators watch the action projected onto a pair of large ringside screens.

In 2003, some 800 people turned out in Amsterdam to watch an exhibition match between Rubingh and a friend. “It was a catastrophe. I lost my queen in the second round of chess,” he said.

But the loss didn’t stop him from pursuing his dream.

The Dutchman returned to Berlin—where he has lived for a decade—and set out to find tough fighters who could also

play a good game of chess.

Germany has emerged as a major boxing center, attracting top talent from Eastern Europe. Most of the world’s top heavyweight fighters are natives of Russia and Ukraine, and many train in Hamburg.

Rubingh knows he won’t be recruiting either boxers or chess players at the top of their game, but he believes there is a deep reservoir of talent among ama-

teur and lower-ranked pro fighters with sharp, tactical minds.

One of his first prospects was Frank Stoldt, a 37-year-old Berlin riot policeman and amateur kickboxer. Stoldt was also an obsessive chess player who often lost himself in late-night online matches.

“Both disciplines are aggressive,” Stoldt said. He started training at Rubingh’s chess boxing gym in Berlin. In November,

he won the sport’s first world championship in Berlin.

He lost his belt this month to Sazhin, a 19-year-old Russian.

Sazhin learned about the sport while surfing the Internet, and tried out by mailing boxing tapes to Rubingh and playing him in online chess games. Rubingh thinks he could be the first of many chess boxers from a country that has embraced fighters and idolizes chess players like Garry Kasparov and Boris Spassky.

It was long after midnight in a Berlin warehouse when Sazhin and Stoldt entered the ring and sat down at the chessboard.

Stoldt moved quickly to establish a defensive perimeter of pawns, while Sazhin staggered his diagonally. Switching to boxing, Sazhin attacked Stoldt with a relentless series of body blows that left the German exhausted.

Back at the chessboard, Stoldt looked distracted, and he left his queen vulnerable as he scurried to protect an exposed bishop. Sazhin pounced, forcing Stoldt to concede the match.

In addition to the title and the belt, the champion won a cash prize. Rubingh would not disclose how much but said it was mostly symbolic at this point, and “it’s nothing compared to professional boxing.”

“To see these 120-kilogram (264-pound) guys sitting there playing chess, it’s like a photo montage,” said 27-year-old chess boxing fan Yarim Fahre. “The different strengths, the tactics—it doesn’t go together.”

## Boy band promoter ordered to repay victims \$300 million

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)**—Lou Pearlman and federal authorities have finally agreed on how much the former boy band promoter swindled from banks and investors in a decades-long scam: a staggering \$300 million.

That’s how much creator of the Backstreet Boys and ‘N Sync will have to repay, at a minimum, for restitution on the fraud conviction for which he’s serving a 25-year prison sentence.

U.S. District Judge G. Kendall Sharpe on Wednesday asked prosecutors and defense attorneys to amend court documents with the agreed amount.

It will be difficult for Pearlman to repay all the money while he is behind bars. Pearlman made millions in the record industry in the 1990s, but investigators have found that money and more seemingly gone with the collapse of his Ponzi scheme.

He’s been allowed to manage—at arm’s length—the few

remaining music acts he still has. He could also offer wages from whatever job he gets in federal prison, ranging from 12 cents an hour to \$1.15 an hour for top-scale factory work.

Attorneys from both sides, the FBI and FDIC determined Pearlman took \$195 million from more than 1,000 people in an alleged savings program promising 6 percent to 10 percent returns, and \$126.7 million in bogus loans from federally insured banks. Another \$70 million was invested by people who thought they were buying shares in companies owned by Pearlman that mostly had no assets. About \$95 million was returned to investors over the years, documents show.

But Pearlman’s restitution could go up. Sharpe delayed judgment on prosecutors’ request to tack on \$124 million in interest payments to victims, saying he wanted to see Pearlman return some of the principal first.

Pearlman’s attorney, former public defender Fletcher Peacock, said adding interest would only dissuade Pearlman from repaying any of his debt. Peacock also said it was unfair because the money was never invested.

“This is not a case of where Mr. Pearlman accrued an amount of interest and objected to giving that back to people,” Peacock said. “This interest was fictional.”

In May, Sharpe said he would shave a month off Pearlman’s sentence for each \$1 million he returned. So far, Handberg said, no additional money has been recovered.

A federally appointed trustee has found few assets to compensate victims, some of whom lost their life savings.

The judge has ordered that individual investors be repaid first, then banks. He wanted them punished for poorly judging Pearlman worthy of multimillion-dollar loans.

### BEST SELLERS

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#### Nonfiction

1. *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: \$25.99) Musings on life and smoking.
2. *What Happened*, by Scott McClellan (PublicAffairs: \$27.95) The former Bush press secretary says the administration deceived the public about Iraq.
3. *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) A professor with terminal cancer urges us to seize life’s moments.
4. *Are You There,odka? It’s Me, Chelsea*, by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: \$24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.
5. *All for a Few Perfect Waves*, by David Rensin (HarperEntertainment: \$25.95) The life of legendary surfer Miki Dora.
6. *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder*, by Vincent Bugliosi (Vanguard: \$26.95) The case against the president for the murder of U.S. troops in Iraq.
7. *The Secret*, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life’s secrets, distilled.
8. *Fleeced*, by Dick Morris and Eileen McGann (Harper: \$26.95) How the average American is being sold out by interests foreign and domestic.
9. *My Stroke of Insight*, by Jill Bolte Taylor (Viking: \$24.95) A brain scientist’s stroke and recovery.
10. *Audition*, by Barbara Walters (Knopf: \$29.95) The pioneering newswoman recalls her life and career.

#### Fiction

1. *Fearless Fourteen*, by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin’s Press: \$27.95) Bounty hunter Stephanie Plum faces a stalker, a kidnapper and an old robbery.
2. *The Enchantress of Florence*, by Salman Rushdie (Random House: \$26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor’s court with a beguiling tale.
3. *Sail*, by James Patterson and Howard Roughan (Little, Brown: \$27.99) A widow takes her children on a sailing vacation that goes desperately wrong.
4. *The Host*, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.
5. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: \$24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.
6. *Netherland*, by Joseph O’Neill (Pantheon: \$23.95) An equities analyst’s life is upended after Sept. 11, when his wife and son flee New York for London.
7. *Unaccustomed Earth*, by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf: \$25) U.S.-born children and their Bengal-born parents straddle cultures.
8. *The Dawn Patrol*, by Don Winslow (Knopf: \$23.95) A surfing private eye trying to unravel an insurance scam tangles with thugs in San Diego’s Pacific Beach.
9. *The Last Oracle*, by James Rollins (William Morrow: \$26.95) The Sigma Force battles scientists who may have bioengineered the end of humanity.
10. *Nothing to Lose*, by Lee Child (Delacorte: \$27) A sect plans to hasten the end times in Colorado.



TOP OF THE CHARTS

- TOP 10 POP SINGLES**  
**This Week Last Week**
1. Katy Perry No. 1 “I Kissed a Girl” (Capitol)
  2. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 2 “Lollipop” (Cash Money)
  3. Leona Lewis No. 3 “Bleeding Love” (Syco/3)
  4. Rihanna No. 4 “Take a Bow” (SRP/Def Jam)
  5. Jonas Brothers new entry “Burnin’ Up” (Hollywood)
  6. Coldplay No. 6 “Viva La Vida” (Capitol)
  7. Plies feat. Ne-Yo No. 8 “Bust It Baby Part 2” (Big Gates/Slip-N-Slide)
  8. Chris Brown No. 7 “Forever” (Jive)
  9. Demi Lovato & Joe Jonas No. 11 “This Is Me” (Walt Disney)
  10. Natasha Bedingfield No. 5 “Pocketful of Sunshine” (Phonogenic)

- TOP 10 ALBUMS**
1. Coldplay No. 1 “Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends” (Capitol)
  2. Lil Wayne No. 2 “The Carter III” (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
  3. Soundtrack No. 3 “Camp Rock” (Walt Disney)
  4. Motley Crue new entry “Saint of Los Angeles” (Motley)
  5. Three 6 Mafia new entry “Last 2 Walk” (Hypnotize Minds/Columbia)
  6. Various Artists No. 4 “NOW 28” (EMI/Sony BMG/Universal/Zomba)
  7. Usher No. 6 “Here I Stand” (LaFace)
  8. Shinedown new entry “The Sound of Madness” (Atlantic)
  9. Disturbed No. 8 “Indestructible” (Reprise)
  10. Rihanna No. 7 “Good Girl Gone Bad” (SRP/Def Jam)

- TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES**
1. Montgomery Gentry No. 3 “Back When I Knew It All” (Columbia)
  2. Blake Shelton No. 2 “Home” (Warner Bros.)
  3. Kenny Chesney No. 1 “Better As a Memory” (BNA)
  4. Alan Jackson No. 5 “Good Time” (Arista Nashville)
  5. Dierks Bentley No. 7 “Trying to Stop Your Leaving” (Capitol Nashville)
  6. Brooks & Dunn No. 9 “Put a Girl In It” (Arista Nashville)
  7. Carrie Underwood No. 4 “Last Name” (Arista)
  8. Sugarland No. 10 “All I Want To Do” (Mercury)
  9. Brad Paisley No. 6 “I’m Still a Guy” (Arista Nashville)
  10. Keith Anderson No. 12 “I Still Miss You” (Columbia)

- TOP TEN MOVIES**
1. Hancock (PG-13) Will Smith, Charlize Theron
  2. WALL-E (G) animated
  3. Wanted (R) James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
  4. Get Smart (PG-13) Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
  5. Kung Fu Panda (PG) animated
  6. The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
  7. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
  8. Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G) Abigail Breslin, Julia Ormond
  9. Sex and the City (R) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
  10. You Don’t Mess with the Zohan (PG-13) Adam Sandler, John Turturro

- TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS**
1. Fool’s Gold (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey (Warner)
  2. Jumper (PG-13) Hayden Christensen (20th Century Fox)
  3. The Bucket List (PG-13) Jack Nicholson (Warner)
  4. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) Martin Lawrence (Universal)
  5. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) Nicolas Cage (Disney)
  6. Be Kind Rewind (PG-13) Jack Black (New Line)
  7. Semi Pro (R) Will Ferrell (New Line)
  8. The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) Natalie Portman (Sony Pictures)
  9. Rambo (R) Sylvester Stallone (Lionsgate)
  10. The Eye (PG-13) Jessica Alba (Lionsgate)

- TOP 10 DVD SALES**
1. Fool’s Gold (PG-13) (Warner)
  2. Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins (PG-13) (Universal)
  3. The Bucket List (PG-13) (Warner)
  4. Jumper (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
  5. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) (Disney)
  6. The Sword in the Stone (G) (Walt Disney)
  7. Be Kind Rewind (PG-13) (New Line)
  8. The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
  9. Semi-Pro (R) (New Line)
  10. The Jungle Book 2 (G) (Walt Disney)

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Kimmel, ABC get laughs out of Leno’s future gig

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Kimmel can joke about how his late-night job might be affected when Jay Leno becomes a free agent—at least when his ABC boss and hundreds of reporters are around.

A comedy bit involving Kimmel and ABC Entertainment President Stephen McPherson drew laughs Wednesday from the Television Critics Association, but McPherson acknowledged ABC’s possible interest in Leno after he turns NBC’s “Tonight” over to Conan O’Brien in 2009.

“I can’t believe they’re (NBC) going to let this guy go at the top of his game,” McPherson said. “If that happens, we’ll look at



AP  
In this April 6, 2008 file photo, Jimmy Kimmel appears on stage at the “Idol Gives Back” fundraising special of “American Idol” in Los Angeles.

it at the time and Jimmy will be involved in those discussions.”

McPherson was careful, however, to praise the comedian and his show, “Jimmy Kimmel Live.”

ABC had just opened a Q&A session among McPherson and reporters when Kimmel, who stood among the press corps and introduced himself as a newspaper reporter from Sarasota, Fla., popped off.

“There are rumors that ABC is actively courting Jay Leno for 11:30 p.m. Is there any truth to those rumors?” Kimmel said, quickly following that with a question about how McPherson’s name was pronounced.

Kimmel kept going: If Leno came to ABC, “If anything were, God forbid, to happen ... would Ted Koppel get fired, or how would that work?” he asked, referring to the former host of ABC’s news show “Nightline,” which precedes Kimmel’s 12:05 a.m. show.

ABC took heat in 2002 when it made an unsuccessful bid to woo David Letterman to its late-night lineup, a move that would have displaced “Nightline” and the respected Koppel. He left the news show in 2005 after 25 years as host.

McPherson played along with Kimmel: “It would be doomsday for Ted.”

Death & Funeral Announcement

MONKEYA

LIKIAK KUN

SEPTEMBER 13, 1949 - JULY 10, 2008

of 59 called to his eternal rest at the age

He is predeceased by:

FATHER: Phinias Alik

MOTHER: Namiko Monkeya Alik

FATHER-IN-LAW: Benigno Kaipat/ Jesus Ilo

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Lorenza Chaco/ Fermina R. Kaipat

GRANDSON: Vicente Igisomar Monkeya

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAW: Gregoria I. & William Mallens, Benjamin Kosam

AUNT: Sepe Monkeya

His memories will live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Lorenza Ilo Monkeya

CHILDREN/SPOUSES: Melvin I. & Prince C. Monkeya; Glorina M. & Pauline Jack; Lee Herbert Monkeya & Tricia Igisomar; Shirley I. Monkeya & James Selepeo; Yonis H. Alik

GRANDCHILDREN: Thealanie Mae (Lanie) C. Monkeya; Kyle Phinias (Bambino) C. Monkeya; Kaiyolanie (Kaikai) M. Selepeo; Tyler Rog (Tyty) I. Monkeya

BROTHERS/SISTERS & SPOUSES: Wilson/Brelina & Children; Mary/Sebaster & Children; Flyner/Hope & Children; Halwyn/Linda & Children; Leonora Alik; Thalman/ Pamela & Children; Ken Alik; Nena Alik

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAW: Piding I. Kosam; Joaquina S. Aguon/Joaquina Aguon; Rita Fitipol; Carmen Fitipol; Jose Santos; Pete & Gina Lucas; Fred Kaipat & Ann Marie Demapan

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, godchildren, many friends, and most especially the members of Saipan-Kosraen Community.

On Thursday, July 17, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., his remains will be escorted from CHC morgue to his residence in Alegeta Road, Kagman II. Rosary will be said at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Responso.

On the next day, Friday, July 18, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., his remains will be escorted from his residence to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Intentions will be offered at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment service.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

LORENZA I. MONKEYA, CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

Called to Eternal Paradise

The Late

CLARA MARATITA-VALDREZ

Affectionately known as

“Mama Lala”

Born to life on March 01, 1956 and was called to our eternal paradise from the Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan on July 10, 2008.

Clara now joins, in the garden of eternal life, her parents: Asuption Hocog Maratita and Romano Masga Maratita; Siblings: Raimundo H. Mangloña, Beato H. Mangloña, Candido H. Maratita and Magdalena M. Inos; Brother-in-law: Misael H. Ogo; Nephew: Aaron M. Suzuki and Nieces: Betty Jane M. Ogo and Trafari Ogo

She is survived and will be greatly missed by her Daughter: Sierra M. Valdrez

Brothers, Sisters, Spouse(s) and Family: Angelica M. Ogo (Michael - Leslie, Mitchell and Monet; Crispin & Hera; Eugene & Marylou - Beverly, Kaylah, Noah, Eugene Jr., Aaron; Sarah & Mike - Misael, Mike Jr., Christopher, Tiana)

Bonabe H. & Emelia Maratita (Rovian Bo, Bryce Allan, Romano)

Carmen M. & Akilino Suzuki (Rae)

Richard H. & Carmen Maratita (R.J. Richard Jr.)

Delfina M. & Edward C. Barcinas (Lucrecia, Edward Jr., Edmund John)

Children of Raimundo (Raymond, Modesta, Ross, Lorenza, Roddy)

Children of Beato (Michelle, Weena, Crispin)

Children of Magdalena (Christine Annette, Leilani, Candilyn)

Child of Candido (Connie Ellen)

Numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends also additionally survive Clara.

Rosary is being said nightly at San Isidro Sainan Ina Catholic Church in Sinapalo, Rota at 6:30 p.m. followed by mass of intention at 7:00 p.m. Her remains will depart the Commonwealth Health Center morgue at 7:30 a.m. and will be flown back to her homeland of Rota on Thursday, July 17, 2008. Interment services will be on Saturday, July 19, 2008 at 8: 00 a. m. Mass of Christian burial will follow at 10:00 a. m. - immediately followed by burial rites, where we will bid our loved one farewell, at the San Jose Cemetery in Songsong Village, Rota.

Your continued thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Sierra Valdrez and The Family

Fifth Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

+MAGDALENA

ARRIOLA

FLORES

“Denang Minko”

Cordially invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved’s passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be celebrated beginning Saturday, July 12, 2008 through July 19, 2008 at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.. On Saturday, July 19, breakfast will be served at the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall after the Mass. On the final day, July 20, Mass will be offered at 9:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated. Si Yu’us Ma’ase.

GINEN I FAMILIA



# Spears is back in studio working on album

In this March 3, 2004 file photo, Britney Spears performs at the Glendale Arena in Glendale, Ariz.

AP



By CHRIS LEE  
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Rebounding from what seemed like an endless spiral of personal crises and public meltdowns, tabloid queen Britney Spears is back in the studio and at work on a "brand-new album," according to a joint statement released by the pop icon's manager, Larry Rudolph, and her label, Jive Records.

"Britney Spears is spending her summer in the recording studio," the statement, released Tuesday, says. "She's working with a team of top-notch producers and songwriters. And we're very excited about what she's achieved so far."

No release date for her sixth studio album has been set, and none of her collaborators is named in the statement. But producers JR Rotem, Sean Garrett, Guy Sigsworth, Nate

"Danja" Hills, Bloodshy & Avantand Rodney "Darkchild" Jerkins have independently revealed that they are contributing to the project.

"Stuff we did so far is really dance-y, really up-tempo," Jerkins told Rap-Up TV last month. "Real aggressive and catchy. Very, very, very hook-friendly."

With the intention of resurrecting her career, the multi-platinum-selling mother of two released "Blackout" last fall, which opened at No. 2 on the national album chart and was ranked among Rolling Stone magazine's Top 50 albums of 2007. Recorded during the time Spears, 26, was pregnant with her second son, Jaden James, and separating from Kevin Federline, the CD featured collaborations with producer-performers including Pharrell Williams and T-Pain.

But "Blackout's" commercial reception was ultimately

overshadowed by Spears' erratic behavior that year, which included shaving her head in a Los Angeles beauty salon, attacking a paparazzo's car with an umbrella, checking into and out of rehab, blowing off custody hearings and turning in a disastrous performance of the album's lead single, "Gimme More," at the 2007 MTV Video Music Awards.

Further presaging Spears' return to center stage, the "pop wreck" has kept busy by making appearances in others' videos. Last month, she appeared at a shoot for the bump-and-grind pop quintet the Pussycat Dolls' single "When I Grow Up." And earlier this month, Madonna's spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg confirmed that Spears was set to film a "short movie" that would be part of the Material Girl's Sweet and Sticky tour, kicking off in Berlin next month.

## CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY  
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

**Q: I really love Lily Tomlin, but I haven't seen her lately. What has she been working on recently? -- Sara F., via e-mail**

A: Lily is currently in production on a couple of movies, "Seniors" and "Sweet Baby Jesus." She also played Deborah Fiderer on several seasons of "The West Wing," which you can find on DVD. One of her funniest characters in recent years is that of Amelia Shakespeare on "12 Miles of Bad Road," which also stars Gary Cole, Mary Kay Place and David Andrews. The best way I can think of to describe the show is

**hoboth, Del.**

A: Lee Aaker, now 65, found it difficult to transition from child actor to adult actor, and after a few more stabs at acting after "Rin Tin Tin" ended, he decided to work behind the scenes as a production assistant. After that, he became a carpenter. Lee has been making the rounds on the nostalgia circuit and was a "Kids of the West" honoree at the 2005 Golden Boot Awards.

**Q: Is Mario Lopez still dating his "Dancing With the Stars" partner, Karina Smirnoff? -- Jason H., Spokane, Wash.**

A: It would appear that Mario, who split from then-wife Ali Landry after she learned he had cheated on her at his bachelor party, is back to his old ways. According to Hooters waitress Meagan Cooper, she carried on a yearlong affair with the hoofer while he was publicly dating Karina (however, Meagan insists she did not know this at the time).

**Q: I was so shocked to hear of newsman Tim Russert's death last month. This season's election coverage will not be the same, to say the least. I read that he had a heart attack. Was he in poor health before this? He always looked so healthy and robust to me. How is his family doing? -- June W., via e-mail**

A: I think the entire country was shocked to hear of Tim's sudden death at the young age of 58. He suffered a massive heart attack while at his office in Washington, D.C. While Tim was known to have asymptomatic coronary artery disease, which resulted in

hardening of his coronary arteries, his physician was surprised by Tim's death, because he had undergone a stress test back in April, which had come out normal. His son, Luke, said that he and his mother, Maureen Orth, are "holding up as best as can be."

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at [letters@cindyelavsky.com](mailto:letters@cindyelavsky.com), or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.



Lily Tomlin

"Dallas" meets "Arrested Development." I was fortunate enough to be able to view the first six episodes of this series, which is produced by Linda Bloodworth-Thomason of "Designing Women" fame, and really hope this series gets picked up by one of the networks so that the rest of the country can enjoy it as much as I did.

**Q: Whatever happened to the boy who played Rusty on "The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin" back in the 1950s? -- Alan P., Re-**

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### Dark Knight

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00  
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart

Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. -- Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide



### Space Chimps

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35  
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines, Kenan Thompson, Stanley Tucci

Family-Oriented Comedy • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



### Mamma Mia

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55  
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård, Julie Walters

Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G



### Meet Dave

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20  
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20

Eddie Murphy, Elizabeth Banks

Sci-Fi Comedy • Rated PG



### Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:40  
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15

Selma Blair and Ron Perlman

Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



### Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30  
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron

Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

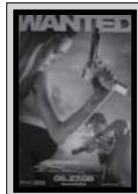


### Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:10 9:45  
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:10

Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem, Josh Hutcherson

Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG



### Wanted

Fri & Sat 7:25 9:50  
Sun thru Thurs 7:25

James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie

Action • Rated R

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# Andy Dick jailed in SoCal on drug, sex allegations

**MURRIETA, Calif. (AP)**—Andy Dick was arrested early Wednesday for investigation of drug use and sexual battery after the comedian allegedly pulled down a teenager's top, police said.

The former co-star of the TV sitcom "NewsRadio" was released from a detention center after posting \$5,000 bail. Calls to his representatives seeking comment were not immediately returned.

Police were called to the Buffalo Wild Wings in Murrieta at about 1:13 a.m. to investigate a report of "an intoxicated male" urinating outside the bar and causing a disturbance, according to a police statement.

When they arrived, a 17-year-old girl told police that she was outside when Dick left the bar, walked up, "grabbed her tank top and bra and pulled them down and exposed her breasts," the statement said.

Friends escorted Dick to a truck, which officers stopped at a nearby Sam's Club, police said.

Dick was identified by the teenager and a witness, police said.

Marijuana and the drug Xanax were found in his pants pockets during a search and he appeared "extremely intoxicated," police said.

Dick, 42, was booked at Southwest Detention Center in French Valley on suspicion of felony possession of a controlled substance, misdemeanor sexual battery and misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Dick has a reputation for crude behavior. He has been reported to have exposed himself to audiences at least twice. He was forcibly removed from the set of the show "Jimmy Kimmel Live" last year after he repeatedly touched guest Ivanka Trump without her permission.

Also last year, Dick was cited in Columbus, Ohio, for urinating on the sidewalk. A comedy club owner in the city said the actor also made inappropriate comments while onstage, groped patrons, took women into the men's room and urinated on the floor and on at least one person.

In 1999, Dick was arrested for possession of cocaine and marijuana after driving his car into a telephone pole in Hollywood. He pleaded guilty but the charges were dismissed after he went into a diversion program.



In this photo released by Riverside County Calif., Sheriff's Department, comedian Andy Dick is shown after being arrested for suspicion of drug possession and sexual battery early Wednesday morning July 16, 2008, in Murrieta, Calif.

## Red piano used by Lang Lang on auction block



In this image released by the New York Philharmonic, Lang Lang performs Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the New York Philharmonic conducted by Music Director Designate Alan Gilbert, right, in Central Park, Tuesday, July 15, 2008 in New York.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—What's black and white and red all over?

The red Steinway grand piano used by Lang Lang at Tuesday night's New York Philharmonic concert in Central Park.

It can be yours, but be prepared to open your wallet.

The 9-foot piano is on the auction block to raise money for the American Red Cross China Earthquake Relief Fund, Lang Lang announced

to the crowd of about 63,000 that heard him play Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto.

Bidding starts at the \$165,000 retail price.

The Steinway Model D Concert Grand was completed this year and is one of only two in the world. Lang Lang's performance Tuesday night was its first in a major classical concert.

"It has a fantastic sound," Lang Lang told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I enjoyed playing it last night. It's a really powerful piano. That's what I like—a piano with lots of power."

Lang Lang said he has helped raise \$3.5 million for relief from the devastating May 12 quake, which killed nearly 70,000 people, including many children whose schools collapsed.

The 26-year-old Chinese pianist is from Shenyang, outside the Sichuan area, which was hit hardest by the quake.

"Still it's the same thing," he said. "I don't care about myself. When something like that happens in any part of the world we should do something. ... So many students died because they were in the school studying. ... This really made me so sad because the school kids, you only see the schoolbags (in photos of the aftermath). You don't see the kids anymore."

The auction opens Thursday on the pianist's Web site, <http://www.langlang.com>, and runs through midnight July 31.

## Trump sells oceanfront mansion for \$100 million

**PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)**—The real estate market might be slumping, but not for Donald Trump, who sold his Palm Beach mansion for \$100 million, his spokeswoman said Wednesday.

"In an age of so many people getting hurt in real estate, it shows that you can still do well in real estate," Trump told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

His spokeswoman says \$100 million is the

most ever paid for an estate in the U.S., though there is no way to verify that claim.

Russian fertilizer billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev purchased the roughly 60,000 square-foot oceanfront home, which Trump fixed up after buying it for about \$41 million in 2004.

He assigned renovations to "Apprentice" winner Kendra Todd, who dressed it up with marble and 24-karat gold fixtures, even in

the bathrooms. The home, called Maison de L'Amitie, is spread over several buildings and includes separate coat closets and bathrooms for men and women off the main entryway for easy entertaining. A mammoth fountain greets guests from the front along with 475 feet of ocean in the back.

"I think it's a great sign for the area, a great sign for Palm Beach and all that Palm Beach represents," Trump said.

## Hard Knox for Jolie-Pitt boy, but Vivienne shines

Knox Leon's first report card wasn't great. Or maybe it's just that his twin sister, Vivienne Marcheline, ruined the curve.

When babies are born to celebrities, the burning question—after establishing that everyone's healthy, of course—is inevitably, "So what's the name?"

Blame it on Suri, Apple, Moses, Shiloh, Pilot Inspektor and Sunday Rose. Famous people just can't seem to help but hang interesting monikers on their kids.

The Associated Press asked a few baby-name experts—people who make their living consulting regular folks on christening their offspring—to break down celeb baby names as they happen and assign them a letter grade.

We start with the twins born to Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt on Saturday in Nice, France. (Maybe you'd heard?)

■ ■ ■

**EXPERT:** Whitney Walker, co-author with Eric Reyes of "The Perfect Baby Name" and consultant through ThePerfectBabyName.com.

**SPECIALTY:** Phonetics and rhythm—how names sound and flow together.

**IMPRESSIONS:** "Knox Leon has the short 'O' vowel sound in both names, so they match. ... Vivienne Marcheline is kind of a mouthful, but rhythmically it goes together because both names are French, with the accent on the last syllable.

"It seems they've got some kind of fixation with always having an 'X' in the boy's name. ... It used to be people named their kids with the same first letter; people frown on that now as a little too cliché. But she wants them to have something in common. And 'X' is unusual, it stands out.

"I'm sure she's going to call them Knox and Viv, and the 'V' and the 'X' kind of tie them together. ... She's going to say these names together a lot; you want them to sound good together, and not be too disjointed."

**GRADE:** Knox Leon: B-minus, Vivienne Marcheline: B-plus.

■ ■ ■

**EXPERT:** Maryanna Korwitts, author of "Name Power 101" and founder of BabyNamingCentral.com.

**SPECIALTY:** The holistic approach, from sounds and meanings to the impact of names, possible nicknames—even initials—on personality traits.

**IMPRESSIONS:** "So with Knox Leon, we see they're picking the boys' names with an 'X' at the end. ... In an associative sense, I wouldn't give it a good grade; makes you think of 'hard knocks,' or knocking someone on the side of the head. We also have Fort Knox. That is something I would steer clear of—you want to think ahead of what kids will face in school.

"On a subliminal basis, it will encourage him to be very physical, very stubborn, and to be someone who will always want to do it himself. ... I think this could be a child that might be difficult to discipline.

"Vivienne, this particular name is one that comes back—we're seeing it more and more (Rosie O'Donnell's daughter is Vivian Rose). It's got some difference to it, yet it's still not out-of-the-box totally. It's another name that will create a lot of independence and stubbornness. That may be a positive with twins—that they may be their own people. A little bit longer, probably will be 'Vivvy,' so that could work out quite well."

**GRADE:** Knox Leon: D-plus, Vivienne Marcheline: C.

■ ■ ■

**EXPERT:** Jennifer Moss, author of "The One-in-a-Million Baby Name Book" and founder of Babynames.com.

**SPECIALTY:** Practicality. "We're not numerologists, and we're not psychics," she says. Moss focuses on the research process, looking for influences such as family history and life experiences.

**IMPRESSIONS:** "Knox is an interesting name. It seems to be a family name on Brad Pitt's side; he also is a big collector of the Scottish artist Archibald Knox. The 'X' at the end seems to run in the family! But people commenting on our site aren't quite getting the whole 'Knox' thing. It has been a trend to use family surnames as first names—Madison was the biggest one. ... But Knox is also a verb, and will be identified with 'school of hard knocks.' ... On the positive side, it's easy to spell, it's easy to pronounce, and it's easy to remember.

"I think Vivienne Marcheline is a very feminine, very beautiful name. Members on our site are responding very well to it. ... I think it'll bring popularity to French names. ... It's a very long name. And when she says it, she's going to have to spell it for people."

**GRADE:** Knox Leon: B, Vivienne Marcheline, A.



## Father laments conversation gap with his only daughter

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am the father of a middle-aged, unmarried, well-educated daughter I'll call "Yvette." My problem is, whether we're together or talking on the phone, Yvette seems to find it difficult to converse with me.

It's most noticeable when I'm sharing something with her, not the other way around. She'll comment on what I have to say, but rarely show any real interest in knowing more. "How are you?" is about all she ever asks. It has been this way for years, and it has affected my wanting to spend time with her. (Neither of us comes from a background where love or affection was openly displayed.)

When I called it to Yvette's attention, she told me she doesn't like to pry, that she figures I'll tell her whatever I want her to know. She doesn't seem to understand that, without some display of interest on her part, it's difficult for me to know if she's interested in what I'm saying.

I know she routinely "tunes out" her mother -- my ex-wife -- who dominates conversations with almost everyone. That isn't my M.O.! Yvette added -- with a chuckle -- that "maybe subconsciously" she does the same with me. I fail to see the humor. Yvette is my only child, and I'd like to feel closer to her. Any suggestions?

UNHEARD IN PHOENIX

**DEAR UNHEARD:** Many a truth is said "in jest." When Yvette stated that she also tunes you out, she made an important admission. The time has come for a frank discussion. Ask your daughter why. Could she be punishing you for your inability to show love or affection while she was growing up?

Ask her directly if the reason she shows so little interest in what you have to say is that she's really NOT interested. Tell Yvette that her behavior is rude, uncaring and distancing. Be sure to tell her that you love her and would like to have a closer relationship, but that achieving one takes effort on the part of both of you.

It's a shame this has gone on for so many years, but if your daughter is willing, the stalemate does not have to continue.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I work in a small office with shared workspaces. One of my co-workers has a sniffing problem that I think may be just a habit. He makes extremely loud sniffing noises all day long. There are no tissues on his desk, and once I asked him if he needed sinus medication. He said no, but the sniffing stopped momentarily.

Abby, the sound makes me sick to my stomach. What should I do?

SNIFFLED OUT IN INDIANA

**DEAR SNIFFLED OUT:** Your co-worker's sniffing is not "just a habit." He may have an allergy or a chronic post-nasal drip. He wouldn't be sniffing if there wasn't something in his nose.

Tell him the constant sniffing is distracting, and he needs to do something about it. And if he doesn't, talk to the supervisor or office manager.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable -- and most frequently requested -- poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*



Dear Abby

# Jessica Alba poses with Honor

**NEW YORK (AP)**—One reason Jessica Alba named her baby daughter Honor was that she felt her own was pretty bland. "I was always irritated that my name was Jessica," the 27-year-old actress tells OK! magazine.

"Come on, it's a very '80s name, because there were tons of Jessicas in every school I went to. There's something great about having a unique name. It's a part of your identity."

She and husband Cash Warren welcomed Honor Marie Warren last month. Alba poses with Honor on the cover of OK!, and all three are featured in a photo spread inside the new issue. The magazine, which recently landed a million-dollar deal with new

mom Jamie Lynn Spears, doesn't comment on its pacts with celebrities, though Alba reportedly sold the first shots of Honor to OK! for \$1.5 million.

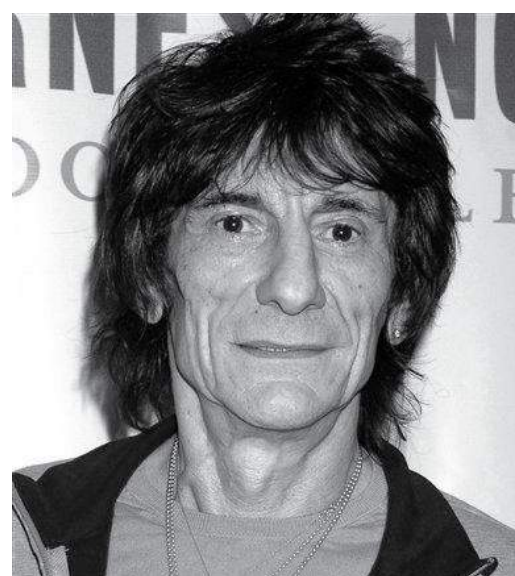
"It's still amazing that she was living inside of Jessica," said Warren, who met Alba on the set of the 2005 film "The Fantastic Four," which co-starred Alba as the Invisible Woman and employed Warren as a director's assistant.

Who will be the disciplinarian? "I think we're pretty even," Alba said. "We're good at communicating and bouncing things off each other. We'll stick to our guns, even when she gives us pout face!"

Warren, however, aims to be the good cop: "I'll hide. Babe, you punish her!"

## Rolling Stone guitarist enters rehab

**LONDON (AP)**—Ronnie Wood entered a rehabilitation facility Wednesday for help with alcoholism, said a spokeswoman for the Rolling Stones guitarist.



Wood

"Following Ronnie's continued battle with alcohol he has entered a period of rehab," the spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity as required by her agency. "His close family and

friends say he is seeking help and look forward to his recovery."

Wood, 61, has fought a long battle with alcoholism during his rock 'n' roll career, which started in the 1960s when he played with the band The Faces.

His spokeswoman didn't release any details about the treatment he will receive or the clinic that he entered.

The craggy guitarist had seemed to be in good health in recent years. He has developed a strong second career as an artist, selling his

paintings at some of London's respected art galleries.

But he has been the focus of feverish recent newspaper reports about his resuming drinking.

## Billy Joel will be last music show at Shea

The razing of New York's Shea Stadium later this year marks the end of an era for baseball fans, but it's also closing the door on a chapter of pop music history that began in 1965 when the Beatles became the first pop group to play a concert at a U.S. sports stadium.

Billy Joel will play the final notes at Shea on Friday in a performance to be documented for a film and DVD titled "Last Play at

Shea," slated for release next year. Several guest artists are expected at the concert, which is one of only a handful that have been held at Shea in the 43 years since the Beatles played.

Other rock acts that performed at the stadium, the home of the New York Mets, include Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, the Who, the Rolling Stones and Bruce Springsteen. *(Los Angeles Times)*

## ABBA songs are back on charts

The stage appears to be set for at least a modest ABBA resurgence with the arrival of the film version of the musical "Mamma Mia!" opening Friday. The soundtrack album has jumped into the Top 10 of the national sales chart even without a movie audience primed to lap it up: It sold 48,000 copies and enters at No. 7.

Beck, meanwhile, lands at No. 4 with "Modern Guilt," the top new arrival during a week in which Lil Wayne, Coldplay and the "Camp Rock" soundtrack held steady in the top three slots. Lil Wayne's "Tha Carter III" is at No. 1 for a third week with sales of 125,000, according to Nielsen SoundScan. *(Los Angeles Times)*



In this image released by OK! magazine, Jessica Alba poses with her daughter Honor Marie Warren in the latest issue of OK!

## Katie Holmes goes back to TV roots

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Former "Dawson's Creek" star Katie Holmes will revisit her TV roots with a guest role on "Eli Stone" this fall.

Holmes was courted by Greg Berlanti, who was a producer on "Dawson's Creek" and is the co-creator and executive producer of ABC's drama about a lawyer (Jonny Lee Miller) who gains prophetic powers.

The idea of bringing Holmes aboard came up in a discussion about how to expand the show's audience in its sophomore year. Berlanti told his fellow producers he was willing to approach Holmes.

"I went and I begged her and she said, 'I'd love to,'" Berlanti told a meeting of the Television Critics Association. He called Holmes "an incredible actress and a good friend."

The episode with Holmes, in which she displays her singing and dancing skills, is the season's second and will air Oct. 21. Berlanti declined to detail the story line.

"Eli Stone" has turned musical in the past, with pop star George Michael performing in the series' debut episode. There are plans for

Michael to return, possibly on a December episode, Berlanti said.

Holmes, who played Joey Potter on "Dawson's Creek" from 1998 to 2003, has worked in films including "Batman Begins" and "Thank You for Smoking" and is married to Tom Cruise. She's scheduled to make her Broadway



In this May 5, 2008 file photo, actress Katie Holmes arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala in New York.

debut Sept. 18 in a revival of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons."

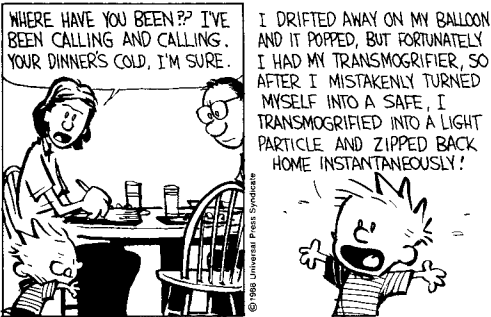
Miller can boast a high-profile ex-wife: Angelina Jolie, who gave birth last week to twins with husband Brad Pitt.

When a reporter asked if Jolie might appear on "Eli Stone" and if Miller would be willing to call her, the actor replied: "You'll have to call her, I'm afraid."

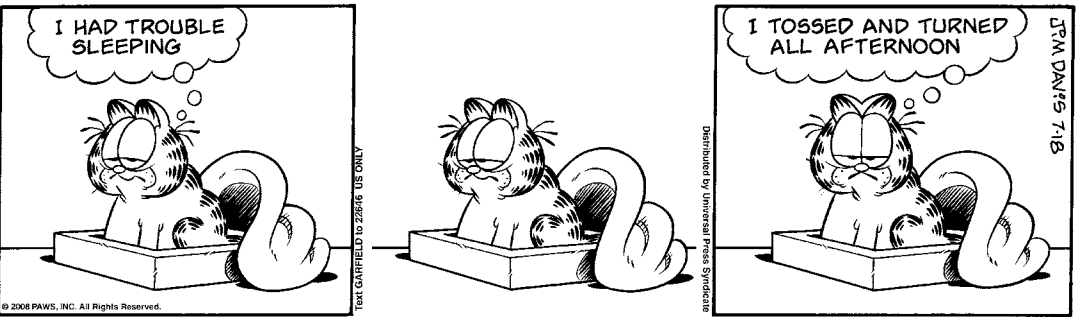


Pastimes

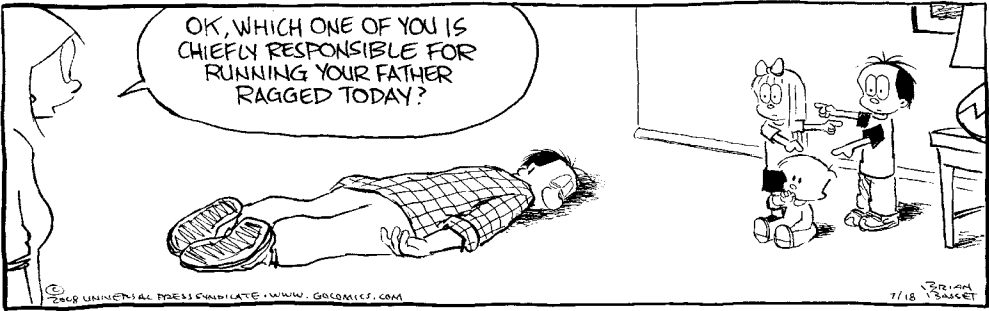
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tackles' team-mates

6 Old soap ingredient

9 Cauldron

12 Square center

13 Author Fleming

14 Commotion

15 Pool member, maybe

16 Mr. Rogers trademark

18 NC-17 patrons

20 Pandemonium

21 Frequently

23 Ball-bearing item

24 Teatime treat

25 Pub supply

27 Trip around the world?

29 Serving bowl

31 "Peer Gynt" dancer

35 Do a double take

37 Wield a cleaver

41 That guy

43 Storm center

44 Image (Var.)

45 Lennon's last home, with "The"

47 More (than)

49 Four-letter words

52 Scratch

53 Witty one

54 River tributary

55 Pompous one

56 Raw rocks

57 Equine to a toddler

19 Hotelier Helmsley

21 Feedbag tidbit

22 Winter ailment

24 Sermon subject

26 Sister of Venus

28 Wax-and-dye design

30 Always, in verse

32 Cinema

33 Trigger's rider

34 Gorilla

36 Assertion of illegality

38 "The Sweetheart of — Chi"

39 Gumbo veggies

40 Dutch South Africans

42 Sponge

45 Cherished

46 Poi base

48 Afternoon hour

50 Cock and bull?

51 Firmament

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-18

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kristin Bell, 28; Vin Diesel, 41; Elizabeth McGovern, 47; Martha Reeves, 67

**Happy Birthday:** There is lots happening this year and you should be part of it. If you don't contribute to decisions being made, you will have no voice to complain later. You are strong, steadfast and a good match for anyone, so don't wait for adversity to turn into a major catastrophe. Embrace what needs to be done and make it happen. Your numbers are 10, 16, 27, 28, 35, 47

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Pace yourself. You can only do so much no matter how hard you try. Helping out may be your thing but, if your work is left undone, you'll have to answer for your lack of responsibility. Don't underestimate what's involved. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Promoting, presenting and pushing what you want to do will turn out well today. Colleagues and influential people will want to see what you are up to. Don't ask for favors or be disturbed by someone who makes a derogatory comment. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Spending time and money on your place will please someone who depends on you. A creative idea will develop through the conversations you have with well-informed individuals who are doing something you appreciate. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): There will be lots to go over before you decide what to do next. Change is upon you and your hesitancy is holding you back. Ignoring the facts and refusing to make a choice will hurt you the

most. Get off the fence. \*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Hard work will pay off and impress the people who can help you get ahead. Add extra detail to whatever you do. Open conversations will lead to change that is not only enticing but will alter the fabric of your current day-to-day routine. \*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Encourage others and you can motivate them to help a cause you believe in. Fun and games with family and friends should be scheduled in. A challenge will be exhilarating. Think big. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It may be difficult to put your finger on exactly what's making you fluctuate but, if you listen to what others are saying, you will realize what needs to be altered to make your world a better place for you. Stop ignoring facts and take action. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful when dealing with people who are into something similar to you. Someone will pick your brain but give nothing in return. Protect your ideas, concepts and future prospects. You have to look out for your own interests. \*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may feel generous, especially if you are in love or trying to make an impression. Don't go overboard spending on things you really can't afford. Instead, offer your good humor, common sense and fun-loving adventurous personality. \*\*\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Plan something special for the people you enjoy spending time and it will turn out to be

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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a very worthwhile investment in turns of what you get back. This is a great time to find out where you stand with the people who have grown dependent on you. \*\*\*

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Face the music and deal with emotional issues raised. Don't ignore facts -- all it will take is a couple of innovative solutions to fix whatever has gone wrong. You can manipulate a good position for yourself. \*\*\*

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): There is plenty going on behind closed doors where love and romance are concerned. You may have to deal with emotional issues if someone is suspicious of your whereabouts. Talks are favored as long as you don't become defensive and angry. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are strong, opinionated and demanding, as well as, emotional, sensitive and caring. You are intense, creative and changeable.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/18

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOME REMEDIES Solution: 7 letters

HE V I T A N R E T L A B E L  
T O P T I O N E I T E M S N E  
L B M I N E R A L R V I T C O  
A E R E C B A C T E R I A A L  
E C F O O E S T R A W E L L A  
H A O D K P R A C T I C A L L  
S L Y N S E A S R U E U Q I L  
P P F T D A N T I D O T E A E  
U E I M T I B A H A O S E C V  
O R X E S R T T E I D S N S I  
S E O T E P F I N L C A E M A  
K L T H R O I J O T H R O A T  
O I E O O A U C E N U M M I  
O E D D I R C S E C I U J N O  
B F S S Y M P T O M S S W E N

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9 8 4 1 6 3 5 7 2  
3 2 5 7 8 4 9 6 1  
6 7 1 2 5 9 4 8 3  
5 6 7 3 9 2 1 4 8  
4 1 9 5 7 8 3 2 6  
2 3 8 4 1 6 7 5 9  
1 4 2 8 3 7 6 9 5  
8 5 6 9 4 1 2 3 7  
7 9 3 6 2 5 8 1 4

Difficulty Level ★★

7/17

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Acne, Alleviation, Aloe, Alternative, Antidote, Bacteria, Body, Books, Broken, Colds, Condition, Cures, Detoxify, Diet, Dose, Enhance, Extract, Foods, Habit, Health, Herb, Homeopathic, Immune, Injury, Items, Juices, Label, Liqueurs, Methods, Mineral, News, Option, Placebo, Practical, React, Recipe, Relief, Safe, Seal, Soup, Spice, Stir, Symptoms, Throat, Treat, Warts, Well

Yesterday's Answer: Religious

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include \$3 postage for the first book order. \$1 path for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-5734, ext. 6888. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# CLASSIFIED ADS



## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

#### Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS in a quiet, secure area behind Calvo's Nursery, off Texas Rd. 24 hrs govt. and rainwater with its own washing machine. Fully air conditioned and furnished with ceiling fans in all rooms. Two walk-in-closets. Newly re-painted and well maintained. \$400. Call Ed at 235-0409

**BIKE FOR SALE**  
193 Kawasaki Motorcycle, Mod. # KC 1000, 4 cylinder, Very good condition seldom used w/16, 800 miles. \$2,500 or BO. Call Joe at 234-6842, during working hours.

**FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL**  
2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**  
Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

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# Source: Packers allege tampering by Vikings



**MILWAUKEE (AP)**—The Green Bay Packers have filed tampering charges against the Minnesota Vikings alleging the team made inappropriate contact with Brett Favre, a person familiar with the Packers' complaint told The Associated Press Wednesday night.

The person, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said Packers officials have expressed their belief that interest from the Vikings was driving Favre's sudden change of heart about playing football in 2008.

"They feel like Favre had something (in place), and that's why he was so anxious to get his release all of a sudden," the person said.

The tampering charges were first reported by Foxsports.com earlier Wednesday.

The person said the league already has reviewed evidence provided by the Packers, and team officials believe a league examination of telephone records would indicate more than "normal contact" between Favre and Vikings offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, a former Green Bay assistant. According to the person, Packers officials also believe the contact began before Favre and his agent, Bus Cook, formally asked the Packers to release him.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league had no comment on the report. Cook did not return a telephone message left by The Associated Press earlier Wednesday.

The tampering charges added a new twist to the Favre saga, which seemed to be over when Favre retired in early March but now has been sizzling for several weeks.

Now, with Favre potentially headed back to an even chillier reception than the below-zero conditions in his last game at Lambeau Field when he makes a scheduled appearance at the Packers' Hall of Fame banquet this weekend, the next step in the iconic quarterback's



NFL athlete Brett Favre accepts an award for record breaker at the ESPYs Awards on Wednesday July 16, 2008 in Los Angeles.

plan to maneuver his way out of Green Bay is unclear.

Cook told ESPN on Wednesday that he and Favre have "no definite plans to ask for reinstatement" and it was up to the Packers to decide what to do next.

"It's their move," Cook said.

Favre currently is on the Packers' reserve/retired list. To be reinstated,

Favre must write a letter to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. Once that request is approved—a step considered a formality—the Packers would have to release Favre or place him on their active roster.

Favre was in Los Angeles for Wednesday night's taping of the ESPY Awards. Host Justin Timberlake zeroed

in on Favre sitting in the audience with his wife, Deanna.

"What have you been up to lately? I haven't seen you anywhere," Timberlake said. "Just chillin'? Yeah, me too."

Later, Timberlake went into the seats to hug Favre's would-be successor Aaron Rodgers, the Packers' 2005 first-round draft choice. Favre sheepishly looked down with a slight smile on his face as the crowd laughed.

That's just the first of several awkward moments potentially on tap for Favre this week.

Favre is scheduled to present former teammate Frank Winters at the Packers' Hall of Fame induction Saturday. Winters, former Packers defensive tackle Gilbert Brown and video director Al Trembl will be enshrined in the Packers' Hall of Fame.

Should Favre keep his commitment, his return to Lambeau will come a little more than a week after formally requesting to be released—and only days after expressing his distrust of Packers management, insisting in an interview with Fox News on Monday that the team pressured him into making his retirement decision.

Favre could see some of the same folks he criticized in his trip back to Lambeau. He also might run into Packers offensive line coach James Campen, a former teammate who was dragged into the middle of the controversy this week.

In an unaired portion of Favre's interview with "On the Record With Greta Van Susteren," Favre apparently said Campen recently made an unexpected visit to his home in Mississippi and said he had "an answer" for Favre regarding his desire to unretire.

"He says, 'You know, I know they told you they're moving on and playing there's not an option,'" Favre said, according to a full transcript of the interview obtained by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. "Playing here in Green Bay is not an option, which that's what they want. They want to move on. But

I'm telling you, if you reinstate or you force their hand, back them in a corner, they feel like they have no other option, they're going to accept you back."

"And he said, 'Just telling you.' And I said, 'OK.'"

In an interview with The Associated Press on Saturday, two days before Favre made his comments about Campen, Packers coach Mike McCarthy chastised the Favre camp for putting Campen in a "tough spot."

McCarthy said the Packers told Campen to visit Favre as a friend, not on behalf of the team, once they heard Favre was having second thoughts about retirement earlier in the off-season. McCarthy said it was Favre and his representatives, not the team, who turned Campen into an "intermediary" between Favre and the front office.

"I think he's totally, wrongly been illustrated in this," McCarthy said. "Ted (Thompson, Packers general manager) would not even talk to Campen about this. He said, 'Hey, your personal relationship with Brett Favre is bigger than this, so don't ever put yourself in that position.' ... James was put in a tough spot. He was put in a situation that was purely personal."

Meanwhile, members of the Packers' management team could face a few awkward moments of their own next week when the Packers hold their annual shareholders meeting at Lambeau Field on July 24.

A movement to rally fan support for Favre has fizzled so far. A rally in Green Bay drew fewer than 200 fans Sunday, and Monday's rally in the Milwaukee suburbs drew only 30 despite widespread local media attention. But shareholders supporting Favre could call attention to the issue.

Shareholders aren't expected to have the chance to ask questions during the meeting, but Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy and Thompson will be present to mingle with them and answer their questions afterward, along with other members of the Packers' staff.

# Cadel Evans leads Tour de France; rider tests positive



**FOIX, France** (AP)—Just when the race was getting interesting at the Tour de France, another doping scandal erupted.

The 11th-stage victory Wednesday by Norwegian veteran Kurt-Asle Arvesen took a back seat to the arrest of Spain's Moises Duenas Nevado after he tested positive for the banned performance enhancer EPO in the second doping bust this Tour.

"I just can't understand when are these guys are going to learn," International Cycling Union president Pat McQuaid said by phone. "If the 'B' sample is positive, then all I can say is the guy's a fool. The net is closing in."

McQuaid said the lure of glory in cycling's main event influences doping.

"The Tour is the biggest event in the world and people will take that risk," McQuaid said. "It's unfortunate. Throughout the rest of the year we don't get that many positives in other races."

"I'm very, very sorry for the image of cycling," said Cadel Evans of Australia, lamenting the case that overshadowed his first ride in the yellow jersey on the

104.1-mile stage from Lannemezan to Foix. He said he had an opinion on the "sensitive issue"—but was keeping it to himself.

Before the stage began, police swept into the hotel in Tarbes where Duenas Nevado's Barloworld team was staying. They detained him and seized unspecified "banned medicines" from his room, team officials said.

The 27-year-old Spaniard, riding in his third Tour de France, tested positive for EPO after the fourth stage time trial in Cholet on July 8, said Pierre Bordry, head of the French anti-doping agency.

Duenas Nevado, who had been 19th overall, was immediately suspended by his team and ousted from the race. On orders from a state prosecutor, police were holding him overnight for questioning—notably about where he may have obtained EPO, a police official said. Under French law, he can be held up to 24 hours.

The drug bust was only the latest in a string of doping scandals that have rocked cycling in recent years - and especially the Tour, its main event. Since the start of last year's race, at least a half-dozen doping-related cases have

hit the Tour.

"I'm shocked," Barloworld manager Claudio Corti said in a statement. "The team is not involved in this story at all, and we'll take severe action against anyone who damages our credibility and the image of our team."

The case was the second positive EPO test in this Tour. Spanish veteran Manuel Beltran—a former teammate of seven-time winner Lance Armstrong—was sent home for testing positive after the first stage this year.

Duenas Nevado recorded his best Tour finish of 39th last year. His previous achievements included victories in the Regio Tour last year, and the Tour de l'Avenir in 2006.

The two Spaniards are lesser-known riders. Above all, their positive tests fan questions about how other riders can possibly fare better without turning to performance enhancers or other types of cheating.

Barloworld got even more bad news Wednesday: Two team riders pulled out of the race after sustaining injuries from a crash about midway through the stage. Colombia's Felix Cardenas suffered a deep cut in his left knee and

Paolo Longo Borghini of Italy broke his right collarbone, the race doctor said.

Barloworld is down to the minimum five riders. The team's leader, Colombian rider Juan Mauricio Soler, pulled out of the race last week after injuring his wrists in a crash during the first stage. Soler was the King of the Mountains champion as the Tour's best climber last year.

The drug bust siphoned off attention from what looks to be a still-wide open race, whose outcome is likely to be determined in three rides in the Alps starting Sunday and a time trial a day before the July 27 finish in Paris.

Arvesen, of Team CSC, led a photo-finish sprint among three riders in a 12-man group as the race left the Pyrenean foothills and headed toward three days of flat stages that are likely to favor sprinters.

"Today I rolled the dice and everything worked well," the 33-year-old Norwegian champion said. "Winning a stage of the Tour while I'm wearing my national jersey—it can't get much better than that."

Evans, the Silence Lotto team leader, stayed in yellow by finishing 14 min-

utes, 51 seconds back in the main pack that included his top rivals for the overall title in the three-week race.

He didn't chase the breakaway group because it didn't contain anyone likely to challenge for the title. The highest-placed rider in that bunch was Russia's Alexandre Botcharov, who erased his deficit to Evans to 6:07, from 20:47.

The 31-year-old Australian, who was runner-up in last year's Tour, held onto his narrow one second lead over Frank Schleck of Luxembourg. American rider Christian Vande Velde is third, 38 seconds behind.

Other expected title contenders include Russia's Denis Menchov, who is 57 seconds behind Evans in fifth, and Carlos Sastre of Spain in sixth, 1:28 off the leader's pace.

Evans said he was nursing residual pain from a nasty crash in Sunday's ninth stage, and was hoping it will have disappeared by the time the race reaches the Alps.

Evans will wear yellow on Thursday for the 104.7-mile 12th stage through rolling hills and plains from Lavelanet to Narbonne on the edge of the Mediterranean Sea.



# Posey signs 4-year, \$25M contract with Hornets



**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—James Posey has won NBA championships with two teams. The New Orleans Hornets hope to be his third.

Posey, a 6-foot-8 forward who last season helped the Boston Celtics win their first title since 1986, agreed Wednesday to a four-year, \$25 million contract with New Orleans, agent Mark Bartelstein said.

Posey also was part of the Miami Heat's championship squad in 2005-06. His record of playing a prominent reserve role on title-winning squads made him a top free-agent target for the Hornets, who are coming off their best season in franchise history and looking to contend for a first championship of their own.

The Celtics hoped to keep Posey, a 31-year-old veteran who has a reputation as a strong defender and who was periodically assigned to guard LeBron James and Kobe Bryant during the postseason.

Posey struggled with the decision, knowing that joining All-Stars Chris Paul and David West in New Orleans would mean leaving behind Paul Pierce,

Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen in Boston, where as recently as Tuesday Posey was signing copies of the Celtics' championship DVD for fans.

"It was a really tough decision for him," Bartelstein said. "Boston was an incredible experience for him every way you look at it. If he was going to leave Boston, he wanted to make sure it was for a team that would compete for a championship immediately and the Hornets certainly are in that world."

Riding the play-making ability of Paul, who'll also play point guard for the United States at the Summer Olympics, the Hornets won a franchise-record 56 regular season games and the Southwest Division for their first division crown.

New Orleans beat Dallas in five games in the opening round of the playoffs and came within a victory of reaching the Western Conference finals, losing to San Antonio in a seven-game, second-round series.

The Hornets' weakness was an inconsistent bench.

Posey, meanwhile, averaged 22 minutes of playing time during Boston's playoff run, scoring 6.7 points and grabbing 3.6 rebounds per game. Posey aver-



In this June 17, 2008 file photo, Boston Celtics' James Posey holds the championship trophy after defeating the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 6 of the NBA basketball finals in Boston.

aged 7.4 points and 4.4 rebounds during the regular season, his 10th in the NBA.

Shortly before the draft, the Hornets traded away their only selection, the 27th overall pick, to the Portland Trail Blazers in exchange for \$3 million in cash with the stated purpose of using that money toward a proven player in free agency who could help them win right away.

The Hornets inquired about several free agents, including Corey Maggette, Eduardo Najera and Jarvis Hayes, but as those players signed with other teams it was clear that Posey was the player the Hornets' coveted most.

With the money they received from Portland, combined with the savings that came from not having to shell out guaranteed money to a first-round draft pick, the Hornets were able to offer a generous enough deal to bring

Posey to New Orleans.

With the Hornets, Posey could compete for a starting role as coach Byron Scott could move Peja Stojakovic from small forward to shooting guard and send Morris Peterson to the bench.

However, Scott may prefer to keep Posey as a sixth man, a role sometimes as important as starting.

The Hornets now will likely turn their attention to signing a backup point guard and possibly a backup power forward or center. New Orleans' top choice at the point appears to be Jannero Pargo, an explosive scorer who opted out of the final year of his contract with the Hornets, more in hope of getting a longer, more lucrative contract than leaving.

Bartelstein also represents Pargo and said a handful of teams are competing for him, including New Orleans, and that Pargo wanted to test the market.

Pargo became Paul's primary backup last season when the Hornets traded Bobby Jackson and a draft pick to Houston for Bonzi Wells and Mike James. In the playoffs, Pargo averaged 10.2 points, scoring 30 points in a first-round game at Dallas.

Wells became a free agent this summer as well, but the Hornets are less likely to pursue him now that they have Posey playing the same position.

## Cavaliers sign Gibson to 5-year deal

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—The Cavaliers finally made a move this offseason, signing sharpshooter Daniel Gibson to a five-year contract Wednesday. Bringing back Gibson, a restricted free agent, was one of Cleveland's top priorities. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The guard averaged a career-high 10.4 points on 43 percent shooting last season. He sprained his left ankle in a Feb. 20 game at Indiana and missed 18 games.

Gibson, a popular player known by the nickname "Boobie," had arthroscopic surgery last month on the ankle. He's already back to playing basketball and is expected to be ready for training camp.

"He's got a great smile on the court. He can shoot the heck out of the ball and bring energy

to our group because guys just love playing with him," Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry said.

Aside from signing first-round draft pick J.J. Hickson last week, the Cavs have been quiet this offseason. Ferry hasn't been active in free agency because the Cavaliers are over the salary cap.

Ferry said the team has been talking to free agents and considering trades.

"We will continue to explore every way we possibly can to get better and give ourselves the best chance and the best window to win a championship this year and to have sustainable success," Ferry said.

The Cavaliers do have two exceptions (\$5.5 million midlevel and \$1.8 million bi-

annual) to improve their talent. They showed interest in Boston forward James Posey, but he agreed to a four-year, \$25 million contract with New Orleans on Wednesday.

Ferry also must decide on guard Delonte West, a restricted free agent, who was acquired in an 11-player deal at the trading deadline last season and showed signs that he could be the traditional point guard the Cavaliers have needed.

"We like what we saw from Delonte last year," Ferry said. "We think he and the team will benefit from having an off-season together. So hopefully, we can get moving forward with his contract negotiation as well."

The pressure on Ferry, owner Dan Gilbert and coach Mike Brown to win an NBA title is

mounting with superstar LeBron James eligible for free agency following the 2010 season. That's two years away, but there's already rampant media speculation about James leaving for New York or elsewhere, and the talk isn't likely to subside.

By re-signing Gibson, the Cavaliers brought back their most consistent outside shooting threat. They're also ahead of where they were last year when restricted free agents Sasha Pavlovic and Anderson Varejao held out all summer before resigning.

Gibson was fifth in the NBA last season in 3-point shooting at 44 percent. He was named MVP of the All-Star Rookie/Sophomore game in New Orleans when he made a record 11 3-pointers.

The Cavaliers are in need of a second scorer to take some pressure off James. Gibson has filled that role at times but not consistently.

"I feel like as time goes on I'll continue to improve and my role will continue to increase and develop," Gibson said.

Gibson missed the final two games of Cleveland's playoff series against Boston with a separated shoulder. Gibson, whose scoring was key to the Cavaliers win over Detroit in the Eastern Conference finals to reach their first NBA finals in 2007, says missing Game 7 of the Boston series still haunts him.

"I've had a lot of sleepless nights just wondering where I could have helped the team," Gibson said.

## Mayo runs point for Grizzlies

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—O.J. Mayo played mostly point guard and struggled early before scoring 14 points in the second half as he and the Memphis Grizzlies lost to the Los Angeles Clippers 82-74 in their NBA Summer League finale Wednesday night.

The Grizzlies' other point guards, Mike Conley Jr. and Javaris Crittenton were given the day off, so Mayo ran the show. He finished with 20 points.

He scored 11 in the fourth quarter to help Memphis erase a 10-point deficit and tie the game at 70 with 3:52 to play.

But the Clippers scored the next six points and closed the

game on a 12-4 run.

"It don't matter what position I play," said Mayo, the third overall pick in the draft. "I just want to get better at both of them."

Mayo missed his first four shots and didn't score until he converted a running layup with 5:50 to play in the second quarter. He finished with six first-half points in 15 minutes.

Mayo's woes continued in the third quarter as he missed three straight foul shots and threw the ball out of bounds on a fast break.

Memphis coach Marc Iavaroni didn't want to classify Mayo as a point guard or shoot-

ing guard, opting to call him a "creative scorer."

Mayo averaged a team-best 22.8 points in five summer league games. He also finished with 24 turnovers.

"The lottery is over with. The draft is over with," said Mayo, who added five assists against the Clippers. "I just want to get better like everyone else."

Darrell Arthur, the Grizzlies' other first-round selection, had 12 points and five rebounds. Memphis closed the league with a pair of defeats to finish 2-3.

Marcus Williams led the Clippers with a game-high 23 points and Al Thornton added 20.

## Oden eager to get back on court

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Greg Oden is itching to get his delayed NBA career going, but he's still forbidden from any 5-on-5 action until September.

Oden's rookie season was over before it even started when he had right knee surgery last September. Recovery can take six months or more, and the Portland Trail Blazers decided their No. 1 pick would sit out the season.

"I'm still rehabbing, but I'm ready to play," Oden told The Associated Press on Wednesday while in Los Angeles to attend the ESPY Awards. "I can work out, I can lift, no 5-on-5, no 3-on-3. That's where everything is going, towards me being able to play when the season starts, but I'm ready."

He said he expects to be cleared to play again in September.

Until then, Oden is taking a summer school biology class at Ohio State, where he left after leading the Buckeyes to the 2007 national title game—a loss to Florida.

"I'm still classified as a freshman," the 7-footer said, grinning.

Being back on campus, though, is a constant reminder that he can't play basketball just yet.

"Those guys are playing pickup games and the fresh-

men are coming in going, 'Oh Greg, I'll beat you,'" he said. "I'm like, 'Just let me go one day.'"

Oden, who played prep ball at Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis, called his rehabilitation "tough and long," but he said his teammates kept him in the loop last season.

"It wasn't like I could even get down because I was always around the guys," he said. "I feel like I'm part of the team."

Having Seattle lose its NBA franchise to Oklahoma City, Oden expects to see "a lot more people in Seattle coming down to Portland."

Oden plans to pursue a degree during his off-seasons. He's undecided on a major, but he wants to do something with food.

"They don't have a culinary degree at Ohio State, so I figure nutrition and then try to do something with that," he said. "I like to cook, I like food."

Asked his specialty in the kitchen, Oden paused and said, "Hamburger Helper and tuna fish."

Told that he should cook from scratch, he replied, "I like the recipes, I can follow a recipe. From what I hear, a lot of people can't, so that's a step up."



# Drew vs. Wright: The matchup that might have been



**NEW YORK** (AP) — Marquee starters

were long gone. So were nearly all the other pitchers. His bullpen empty, National League manager Clint Hurdle approached David Wright and asked whether he had the right stuff to take the mound and close out the All-Star game. Did the New York Mets third baseman think chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon or general manager Omar Minaya would mind?

"Don't worry," Wright remembered saying. "They're probably sleeping by now. Nobody will know."

What began Tuesday night as a matchup between Ben Sheets and Cliff Lee nearly ended Wednesday with Wright pitching for the NL and Boston Red Sox right fielder J.D. Drew toeing the rubber for the American League.

Just as that possibility was becoming very real, Justin Morneau slid home just in time on Michael Young's sacrifice fly in the 15th inning, giving the AL a 4-3 victory that extended its unbeaten streak to 12.

Minaya was happy it didn't come down to Wright's pitching prowess.

"I would have a problem with one of our position players pitching in an All-Star game, there's no doubt," he said.

Yankee Stadium, hosting its final All-Star game, was the stage for a 4-hour, 50-minute marathon that ended at 1:37 a.m. Given the ticket prices—\$525-\$725 in the lower deck, \$150 in the bleachers — fans deserved something extra. They got it.

"Anyone who needed proof that Yankee Stadium is the grandest stage in baseball got it last night," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement. "The 2008 All-Star game was one of the greatest experiences in my life and in franchise history."

Many of the 49 Hall of Famers honored during pregame pageantry likely were in bed by the final out. There would be no repeat of 2002's 7-7, 11-inning tie in Milwaukee, which caused commissioner Bud Selig to expand the rosters.

"The commissioner has made it clear: He didn't care if it was 25 innings. The game was being played to conclusion," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

Wright guessed he hadn't pitched since Little League.

"I would have made up stuff on the mound," he said Wednesday through team spokesman Jay Horwitz. "In a way, I wish it would have happened. It would have been thrill for me to remember for the rest of my life."

Phillies closer Brad Lidge, who had thrown about 100 warmup pitches in the bullpen, pitched the 15th for the NL. He maybe could have gone another inning. Scott Kazmir entered in the 15th for the AL, two days after a 104-pitch outing for the Devil Rays. He had

only an inning or so left.

"We were going to go on hours, not pitches," AL manager Terry Francona said.

Hurdle had used every player on his roster except Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum, who was too sick to play. Francona had used all 32 of his players on his roster.

"The only thing I could think to do was put (DH Evan) Longoria in the game and pitch J.D.," Francona said. "But we were still a little ways away from that."

Drew has volunteered to pitch in an emergency for the Red Sox, but Francona has never taken him up on the offer.

"I would have thrown some stuff up there," Drew said. "I got a little sneaky stuff here and

played until there was a winner.

"I was doing Chinese arithmetic from the sixth inning on," Hurdle said. "I felt like I was in algebra class. It got wild."

The AL improved to 6-0 since the All-Star game began determining home-field advantage in the World Series and 11-0-1 since its 1996 loss in Philadelphia. And it even ended an old hex — the AL had been 0-9-1 in extra innings against its older rival.

By the way, baseball's labor contract makes no provision for home-field advantage if there isn't an All-Star winner.

Morneau started the winning rally with a leadoff single against Lidge, and the AL loaded the bases on Dioner Navarro's single and

boo Boston's Jonathan Papelbon and the Mets' Billy Wagner. The fans showed their love for Yankees closer Mariano Rivera and captain Derek Jeter.

Colorado's Matt Holliday and Drew homered. Houston shortstop Miguel Tejada made a great falling throw on a slow grounder to deny the AL a win in the 10th after a pair of ugly errors by Dan Uggla, who made a record three botches in all.

The AL left the potential winning run at third base in the 10th, 11th and 12th innings. Uggla twice stranded what would have been the go-ahead run on third. In the 11th, Pittsburgh center fielder Nate McLouth made a perfect throw to nail Navarro at



Boston Red Sox's J.D. Drew, of the American League team, holds the MVP trophy after the American League's 4-3 victory over the National League in the Major League Baseball All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium in New York on Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

there. I don't know if I would have got anybody out."

For Francona, this took on the stress of a game that counts in the standings.

"I told Jim Leyland, 'I'll quit cursing, I'll quit chewing,'" he said, referring to the Detroit manager who was part of his coaching staff. "I lied."

The NL was given a pregame pep talk by Hall of Famer Ernie Banks, whose motto is: "Let's play two!" And they nearly did, matching the NL's 2-1 win at Anaheim in 1967 for the longest All-Star game.

By the 13th inning, MLB dispatched senior vice president Joe Garagiola Jr. to remind the managers that the game would be

Drew's one-out walk.

Young lofted a fly to right, and Corey Hart's throw home bounced and was slightly to the first-base side of the plate. Catcher Brian McCann gloved the ball and tried a sweep tag, but Morneau sneaked his right foot in, barely ahead of the tag.

"It was a little deep for me," Hart said.

Drew was picked as the MVP, with his two-run homer in the seventh tying it at 2. Being from Boston, he was booed when presented with his trophy.

The teams set records for strikeouts (34), runners left on base (28) and players (63). Young's fly came on the 453rd pitch.

The pinstriped crowd got to

the plate on Young's single, with Dodgers catcher Russell Martin applying the tag.

Papelbon, mocked with chants of "Mariano!" and "Overrated!" gave up Adrian Gonzalez's go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth, but Wagner allowed Longoria's tying double in the bottom half.

A sellout crowd of 55,632 had come to honor the 85-year-old ballpark, home to Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle. Steinbrenner delivered the balls for the ceremonial first pitches from a golf cart.

And then the game went on and on.

"Yankee Stadium is tough, I'm telling you," Rivera said. "Didn't want it to end."

## Injured Padraig Harrington questionable for British Open



**SOUTH - PORT, England** (AP)—If this was nearly any other week,

Padraig Harrington would already be home. Instead, he was strolling around blustery Royal Birkdale, still trying to cope with the pain in his right wrist, still trying to work out how he can possibly defend his British Open championship.

Harrington cut short another practice round Wednesday on the eve of the tournament, managing only three full swings before his wrist started throbbing again. He walked the rest of the course, limiting himself to chipping and putting, the only things he felt comfortable enough to risk.

So, will he play?

"I can't say honestly at this moment," Harrington said as he strolled down the middle of the 18th fairway, midway through a practice round that was little more than a pleasant walk.

Later, after coming off the ninth green, he was a bit more specific about his prospects. Harrington said it was 75 percent likely he would at least tee off, but put his chances of making it through the first round at only 50 percent.

The Irishman sprained his wrist last weekend while hitting into an impact bag, golf's version of the punching bag. He took a couple of days off, then hit the course Tuesday. He managed to get in nine holes before his wrist started feeling "tingly," forcing him to cut out any full swings on the back side.

Harrington returned early Wednesday, headed to the practice range and didn't have any problems.

"I thought it was fine," he said. "I was hitting all sorts of shots and felt quite confident. I was hitting drivers with no problem. I was hitting divots with no problem."

Then he headed to the course. Three swings later, he was done.

Harrington teed off at No. 10 and didn't like the way his wrist felt. He tried another swing from the fairway. More pain. He gave it one more shot at the 11th tee before pulling the plug. For the second day in a row, caddie Ronan Flood ditched the bag and simply walked with his boss carrying a few wedges and a putter.

"When I hit that first 6-iron off the fairway, it hurt," Harrington said. "When I went back and hit the driver again, that hurt."

The doctors have assured Harrington that nothing is broken or torn, so there appears little chance he could make things worse by play-

ing—and potentially knock himself out of future events such as the PGA Championship or, even more important, the Ryder Cup.

Harrington was being treated with laser light therapy, ice and anti-inflammatory medication. Even if he plays, he knows he won't be 100 percent.

"I'll be apprehensive hitting any shot," he said. "I'll certainly be apprehensive hitting it in the rough. It might be a situation now of trying to manage the pain. If the stability in the wrist is strong, it's really dealing with the pain. The pain itself is not a problem, but the anticipation of flinching for the pain, that could be a problem. I've got to somehow manage that."

Harrington had a small wrap on his wrist, though few fans saw it because he was wearing a wind jacket on a cool, windy day along the Irish Sea. Still, most spectators were aware of the defending champion's predicament and showed their concern.

"How's the wrist, Padraig?" one man asked when Harrington lingered to sign autographs.

"It's OK," he replied, without much conviction.

Harrington walked the course with Woody Austin, watching the American hit drivers and irons, then chatting with him between shots.

"It's been a nice relaxing day for me," Harrington quipped. "I should be checking out the course, but I find myself just telling stories with Woody."

Harrington won his first major championship a year ago at Carnoustie, where he memorably hit two balls into the Barry Burn on the 72nd hole but still managed to beat Sergio Garcia in a playoff.

He was looking forward to making another run at the claret jug—even suggesting jokingly that the R&A come up with a smaller box to store it in, so the champion could carry it on to a plane. But the ailing wrist has made it highly unlikely he'll be able to contend at Royal Birkdale.

Then again, Tiger Woods did manage to win the U.S. Open on a bum knee. The world's best player underwent surgery shortly after his playoff victory over Rocco Mediate, forcing him to sit out the rest of the year.

The British Open faces the prospect of being without two of its biggest names. And rest assured, Harrington wouldn't be going through so much trouble for just any tournament.

If this wasn't the British Open?

"I," Harrington said without hesitation, "would be at home right now."



# Ginebra eliminates reigning All-Filipino kings

**ANTIPOLO CITY, Philippines**—Barangay Ginebra proved too much against an all-Filipino Sta. Lucia Realty as it hammered a 113-85 win in Game 2 to clinch a semifinal berth in the Smart-PBA Fiesta Conference Wednesday night at the Ynares Sports Center here.



With import Lee Benson out after the Realtors management decided not to play him, the Kings dominated the game as they closed out the best-of-three quarterfinal showdown via a 2-0 sweep.

Barangay Ginebra, which won the series opener, 92-90, last Sunday, got a team-high 22 points from Jay-Jay Helterbrand, while seven-foot import Chris Alexander collected 19

points and 14 rebounds. Mark Caguioa, who exploded for 30 points in Game One, came off the bench to add 19 points, while Junthy Valenzuela had 15 and Paul Artadi contributed a personal conference-high 12 points and a personal season-high 11 assists and six steals.

Barangay Ginebra plays outright semifinalist Red Bull in a best-of-seven series starting Sunday at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

“(Red Bull is) really playing well right now. We have to do our homework, there’s no time to rest for us,” said Uichico, who expects a long series with the Barakos.

Red Bull defeated Barangay Ginebra twice in the eliminations.

Top qualifier Air21 meets the winner between Magnolia-Coca-Cola winner in the other semifinal pairing.

The Realtors management decided to play with an all-Filipino lineup after it had a falling out with the 6-foot-10 Benson. SLR team manager and governor Buddy Encarnado said Benson allegedly threatened not to play well in Game Two of the series against Barangay Ginebra after several of his requests were turned down.

“He (Benson) makes so many demands,” Encarnado said. “It’s ok to make demands, but when you try to threaten the management of not playing (well) be-

cause you didn’t get something that you demand, that’s not right.”

“We don’t deserve this. I thought all along that he’s a professional, but he’s not. We cannot sacrifice the integrity of the team and the league,” he added.

The Kings’ point production was conference-high (113) while the 28-point margin was the worst this season for the Realtors.

“It was a relief (Benson’s absence),” Ginebra mentor Jong Uichico said. “Nabawasan ang sakit ng ulo namin. But we actually prepared na nandun s’ya.”

The Kings took a 28-21 advantage. The lead ballooned to 13 (56-43) at halftime. A jumper by Caguioa gave them their biggest lead at 101-68 with 6:10 to play.

Kelly Williams, with 23 points and 11 boards, led SLR, which won its first four sudden-death games this season including two in the wildcard this conference.

**Barangay Ginebra 113** – Helterbrand 22, Alexander 19, Caguioa 19, Valenzuela 15, Artadi 12, Escalona 8, Salvacion 6, Mamaril 4, Reavis 4, Pacana 2, Menk 2, Wilson 0, Crisano 0.

**Sta. Lucia 85** – Williams 23, Omolon 12, Reyes 9, Yeo 8, Aquino 8, Miranda 7, Mendoza 6, Daa 4, Coronel 3, Espino 3, Gonzales 2, Mamaclay 0.

**Quarterscores:** 28-21, 56-43, 79-63, 113-85. ([www.pba.com.ph](http://www.pba.com.ph))

## Coca-Cola trips Magnolia, forces rubber match

**ANTIPOLO, Philippines**—Ronjay Buenafe banged in what’s easily the biggest basket of his pro career thus far, keeping the Coca-Cola Tigers in the hunt for the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference championship.

Buenafe drained the winning basket with 7.2 seconds left as Coca-Cola forced a sudden death with Magnolia in their best-of-three quarterfinal showdown with a 91-90 thriller of a win Wednesday night at the Ynares Center here.

The Beverage Masters actually had a chance to finish off the Tigers but Dondon Hontiveros missed a three-point attempt at the buzzer.

“I didn’t say much before the game, forgetting the Xs and Os. I just told the boys to just do their best, and they rose to the challenge,” said Coca-Cola coach Binky Favis.

“Same thing on Friday. For as long as we’re alive, we’ll be there fighting. We’ll maximize the one day rest to be ready for another tough grind,” Favis added.

The two teams figured in a fierce

fourth-quarter battle that wasn’t decided till the final buzzer.

The Tigers squandered double-digit spreads in the third quarter and flirted with disaster as they fell behind at 89-90 on a five-point binge by Amal McCaskill and Wesley Gonzales.

But the Beverage Masters won’t complete the job with Buenafe saving the day for the Tigers on a tough jumper after faking off two defenders.

Hontiveros had a decent attempt in their final offensive thrust but his shot went a little strong, sending the Coca-Cola bench and the Tigers’ supporters to a frenzied celebration.

The Tigers lived to fight another day despite another mediocre showing from new import Brandon Dean.

“I know Brandon has something to show, but he’s in a tough situation playing a knockout game right away,” said Favis of Dean, who was good for only six points, four assists and two rebounds.

For the second straight game, McCaskill showed up Jason Dixon only to see his ef-

forts go to naught.

McCaskill churned out another double-double game highlighted by a crucial sky hook, then a steal setting up Gonzales for the trey that made it 90-89 for the Beverage Masters.

Three-pointers came aplenty in the pay-off period with Alex Cabagnot firing away three, the last giving the Tigers an 89-85 cushion with 1:07 left.

Gonzales delivered big plays coming off the bench in the fourth quarter, counting a short stab and a charity in an 11-4 opening run in the fourth quarter that pushed Magnolia ahead at 79-74.

**Coca-Cola 91** – Cabagnot 17, Dixon 16, Taulava 12, Belasco 11, Buenafe 9, Macapagal 9, Dimaunahan 7, Dean 6, Telan 4, Catli 0.

**Magnolia 90** – McCaskill 19, Hontiveros 18, Ildefonso 13, Tugade 10, Cortez 9, Gonzales 6, Racela 5, Pena 5, Villanueva 3, Pingris 2.

**Quarterscores:** 23-22, 46-41, 70-68, 91-90. ([www.pba.com.ph](http://www.pba.com.ph))

## OUTAGE

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Ada Gym. FMI league commissioner Boy Garcia said the final 3:30 of the game will be played next week, most probably Tuesday, July 22. In the first game, GEC Pawn-

shop swept pennant champions Taga Warriors, 102-95, in their own best-of-three finals in the 40-and-over division.

Taga Warriors led after the first three quarters only to have GEC Pawnshop pull the rug from under them in the fourth and final quarter.

Sonny Ranola paced GEC

Pawnshop in the title-clinching victory with team-high 37 points, while Molly Cacho and Larry Palero added 25 and 16, respectively.

Ronald Delos Reyes went ala-Pelisamen in the loss with a game-high 51 markers, but didn’t get enough support from his teammates.

**GEC Pawnshop 102** – Ranola 37, Cacho 25, Palero 16, Casabuena 14, Olivos 6, Buenabajo 4, Peleno 2, Celes 2.

**Taga Warriors 95** – Delos Reyes 51, Abed 18, Cosino 12, Pineda 8, Nicdao 6.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-25, 46-50 69-71, 102-95.

**Referees:** Gilbert Espinosa and Eric Artillaga.

## U14

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ers. I have seen improvement in one week at the higher level and hope to see more success in the coming years.”

Our midfielders and forwards also pushed the ball forward against the odds to have some very good opportunities on goal. Angelo Jones attacked the goal and surprised the Macau goalkeeper by putting his face in front of a punt in order to try and score. It was a near miss and created a lot of excitement on the field. Jaythan Camacho kept the excitement alive by a few breakaways to the goal and shots

against teams like Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong.

Few players would have had the tenacity and moxie to put themselves in a position to play football giants knowing the odds were stacked against them. We sent 18 willing players from the CNMI that did. They not only fought but they improved dramatically over the course of the week. They learned so much about the game by playing boys that were better than them. They rose to the occasion and will make our youth program stronger as a result.

“The Youth Festival is for the improvement of football throughout Asia. In just one week our U14 team has gained more knowledge and skill than

months of training. The tournament was very successful for our development of youth football in the CNMI,” said Swain.

They also gained the positive attention from EAFF officials with their desire to play the game.

The EAFF U-14 Festival is a bi-annual event next slated for 2010. Because our team was so young, we will potentially be able to bring roughly half the team back next time. They will be bigger and should even have more skills through the continued development of the youth programs. We are currently putting the interscholastic program into place which should bring out even more youth players.

There are exciting things

coming up for the CNMI youth in football! We would like to thank the NMIFA for affording the boys this fantastic opportunity. Additionally we would like to thank EAFF for inviting us. Thanks goes out also to our coach Nick Swaim; managers Peter Coleman and John Ravell; coaches who have volunteered over the season, Patty Coleman, Steve McKagan, Norman Camacho, Emily Gries, Katie Peters, Glen Smith, Brad Ruszala, and many more. A special thanks go out to our fans from coach Swaim.

“Thank you to the many fans that came out to support our team. We had the largest fan group and the best support of any team at the festival.”

choice to represent the CNMI in Kaike after the Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist won this year’s Tagaman, but due to scheduling conflicts backed off from the trip to the Land of the Rising Sun.

Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura wished Shimizu and Halliday good luck in their race this coming Sunday.

“They will also serve as our goodwill ambassadors. The

event highlights our fifth year of Tagaman exchange with Kaike,” he said.

Shimizu and Halliday are expected join 800 other triathletes in japan’s oldest multi-discipline race. Their trip to Kaike is sponsored by Taga Inc., DFS Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Northwest Airlines, Pacific Development, Inc., and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Kaike Triathlon is the first

triathlon ever held in Japan and began with 52 racers 26 years ago. Over time, the course has expanded to a 3-km swim, 145-km bike and 42.195-km run and entries swelled to nearly 900 the past couple of years.

MVA’s Ed Diaz is joining the group as liaison officer. Hiroko Tajima of PDI, meanwhile, is the coordinating officer and she is already in Japan to meet them at the Osaka airport to Tottori.

## SHIMIZU

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1:22 ahead of the 7th XTERRA Saipan runner-up Miek Carey.

Tinian transplant Halliday, meanwhile, made the locals proud by coming in third in the 2008 Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim, crossing the finish line in 2:42:06.

Eli Torgeson was the original

playoff series on Tuesday, July 22, with pennant champion Rock Steady taking on fourth place D-9ers.

Wednesday, July 23, will have pennant runner-up Ford Rangers again facing the Falcons. Game 2 of each series will be played on Thursday and Friday, respectively. Game 3, if necessary, continues the following week.

Winners advance to the best-of-five championship series.

Last Monday, D9ers advanced to the Final Four after drubbing Korean Dreams, 16-8.

The final 2008 BSML standings has Rock Steady leading the pack with an unblemished 14-0 record, followed by Ford Rangers at 11-4, Tanapag Falcons at 10-5, and San Roque D9ers at 8-6.

Koreans Dreams (7-7), Komoro (4-10), Team Kabur (2-12), and O’Conner Tigers (1-13) all missed the playoffs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES		
LOCAL SCORES		
BSML STANDINGS		
y x-Rock Steady	14	0
x-Ford Rangers	11	4
x-Tanapag Falcons	10	5
x- San Roque D9ers	8	6
Koreans Dreams	7	7
Komoro	4	10
Team Kabur	2	12
y-pennant champions		
x-indicates top four teams for the playoffs		



# Aughenbaughs playing in Palau youth games

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Saipan's Aughenbaugh siblings—Elijah, Charity, and Kevin—are currently vacationing in their mother's home island of Palau and while there, they are taking part in the country's first-ever Belau 18 & Under Youth Games.

Their father, Keith, in an email to the *Saipan Tribune* said his two sons and daughter are representing Ngardmau State where their grandmother Mechelins' family (Kuman-gai) is from.

Elijah Aughenbaugh, 16 year old, is currently playing short-stop and pitcher for the Ngardmau baseball team.

Eli, as he is fondly called, was the starting third baseman on the Senior League playoff champion Jets in the recently completed 2008 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball Association.

Through three games in Koror, Eli has gone 6-for-11 batting and pitched a complete five-inning game Wednesday evening against Aimeliik in a shortened 10-run rule victory, 12-2. He had eight strikeouts and was 4-for-4 at the plate in that game for Ngardmau.

Eighteen-year-old Charity, meanwhile, is playing for the Ngardmau girls volleyball team, which currently has a 2-3 win-loss record in the volleyball competition of the Belau 18 & Under Youth Games. Charity is a 2008 graduate of Marianas High School.

Last but certainly not the least, 13-year-old Kevin, an incoming eighth grader at Hopwood Junior High School, was to run the 800m event in the men's track and field competition in Koror.

The first-ever Belau 18 & Under Youth Games kicked off with an opening ceremony held last July 14 at the Palau National Gymnasium.

All six states were in attendance along with Palau National Olympic Committee board members, several members of the participating states' legislature and families, friends, and spectators.

Teams representing the states of Ngardmau, Anguar, Pelilieu, Aimeliik, Ngwail, and Sonsorol are participating in the week-long event in track and field, baseball, volleyball, basketball, and paddling.



Elijah Aughenbaugh prepares to bat, left, and pitches for Ngardmau State in the first-ever Belau 18 & Under Youth Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

## Finance/Shipping advances to finals of '08 TDHC caging



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Finance/Shipping team, left, took on Casino Department, below, in Game 1 of their best-of-three finals series in the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League last night.

Russel Pavino was whistled for his fifth and final infraction, leaving only Fernandez to finish the game with them still leading 106-104.

But since Fernandez had no other player to throw the ball to from out of bounds, referees had no choice but to call the game in favor of Finance/Shipping.

The rest of the teams playing in the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League are Casino Department (3-0 win-loss record), F&B Service (2-2), and Security Department (0-4).

Finance/Shipping and Casino Department started their best-of-three finals series last night, but results of the contest was still not available as of press time.

Before Game 1 of the championship last night, the league held a Rookies/Sophomores vs. Veterans game.

Tuesday also saw the league hold its 3-point shootout with Security Department's Leo Pascua beating Louie "Iverson" Malimban of Finance/Shipping in the finals.

**Finance/Shipping 104** – Torregosa 26, Piol 22, Espiritu 17, Rosales 12, Papias 11, Bustillos 11, Gerogalin 5.

**F&B Service 106** – Fernandez 44, Sabordo 37, Pavino 8, Gilber 7, Flores 4, Dancel 4, Gammad 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-21, 57-50, 78-77, 106-104.

**Referees:** Don Sarmiento, Bogs Pascua, and Doy Ligan.



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Finance/Shipping advanced to face Casino Department in the finals of the 7th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Inter-Departmental Basketball League after beating F&B Service in a no-contest.

The controversial ending was brought about when only one F&B Service cager remained on the court—2007 league MVP Charlie Fernandez—in the 39th minute of the semifinals, forcing referees to call the game a no-contest in favor of the Finance/Shipping, which improved its win-loss record to 3-0.

The Finance/Shipping-F&B Service match was actually a continuation of their postponed match played earlier with action picking up in the second quarter.

Finance/Shipping's bruising play dominated F&B Service and allowed it to take a seven-point, 57-50, spread at the half.

But F&B Service countered their opponent's physicality by drawing big third quarters from its two MVPs—Fernandez and 2006 most valuable player Noel Sabordo—to trim their deficit to 77-78 heading into the fourth and final quarter.

In the playoff period, Fernandez and Sabordo reprised their hot shooting, converting from all angles despite the sticky man-to-man defense put on them by Finance/Shipping to take over the driver's seat.

F&B Service continued to hold on the lead but foul trouble turned the tide in the final minutes of the game.

One by one, F&B Service players fouled out of the ballgame and with a minute to go in the match, the team's slotman

## ToC tweaked for 2008 edition

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The 2008 Tournament of Champions will have an additional category this year, as the premier golf competition in the region added a two-day double Peoria to its bevy of prizes.

In an interview last Wednesday, ToC organizing committee chair Ben Babauta said they tweaked the format this year to ensure better participation from the region's golf enthusiasts.

He also acknowledged that the double Peoria format has been quite popular recently because it levels the playing field for all entrants.

Babauta said the double Peoria category will have the same cash and in-kind prizes set aside as the regular categories—Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors and Super Seniors flights as well as the Ladies Low Gross.

First place in the said flights and the double Peoria category takes home \$600, second place is \$500, and third place is \$500.

Fourth place gets a DVD player, while fifth place bags a \$100 gift certificate from DFS Saipan.

The 2008 Tournament of Champions is set for Aug. 2 and 3 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The early bird registration for TOC continues until July 25. The registration fee is \$200 per player and moves to \$225 after July 25. You may register at the DFS Galleria Saipan Monday-Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm. You may pick up entry forms at DFS or any of the golf courses on Saipan. You may also download it at [www.tocsaipan.com](http://www.tocsaipan.com).

According to Babauta, five lucky players in this year's tournament will also have an opportunity to win \$1 million each in this year's Million Dollar Shootout.

To enter the Million Dollar Shootout, you must be a registered player in TOC. You may purchase raffle tickets for \$1 each to enter the shootout.



Babauta

## RGA July Ace set for tomorrow



The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its July Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, July 19, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the event is 11am with tee off set an hour later at 12pm. As many as 16 players can play in the weekend golf game.

Score to beat in the July Ace is Ben Duenas' net score of 68 he fired during the June Ace of the Month qualifier held in conjunc-

tion with the 9th Annual St. Jude Golf Tournament last June 21 at the same Kagman golf course.

In related news, Wabol is reminding Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship. Only two tournaments remain before the RGA Club Championship—December qualifier and the December Ace.

Wabol also said that the club has halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of \$50 to only \$25.

This happened after RGA

recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

The club hopes that by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

For more information about RGA's new membership policies and other competitions held by the club, contact president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673. (Mark Rabago)





## Aughenbaughs playing in Palau youth games

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Source: Packers allege tampering by Vikings

The Green Bay Packers have filed tampering charges against the Minnesota Vikings alleging the team made inappropriate contact with Brett Favre, a person familiar with the Packers' complaint told The Associated Press Wednesday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Ford Rangers win historic 3-HR game



MARK RABAGO

Ford Rangers will again lock horns with the Tanapag Falcons when the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League playoffs gets rolling next week at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Ford Rangers broke its second-

place tie with Tanapag Falcons by beating the defending champions on a shootout, 14-8, last Wednesday in the final regular season game of the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

The Rangers-Falcons duel was quite historic, according to SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi, as it marked the first time in league history that three homeruns were recorded at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Rangers catcher Robert Bansil started the fireworks, hitting a homerun off starting pitcher Henry Reyes to give his team a 2-0 lead after also bringing home Mario Sablan.

Falcons continued to trail the Joteten Motors-sponsored team until the third inning when Ned Norita brought home brother Bruce and Dustin Quitano, while J.R. Suel reached on an error to give Tanapag a 3-2 advantage.

Pete Tomokane then equalized the count on an RBI single in the third. He would later come up big in the bottom of the fifth when the Rangers shortstop connected on a grand slam off Reyes to give his team a 7-3 advantage.

Rangers tucked in two more runs against Reyes' replacement, Jess

See RANGERS on Page 42

# Outage stalls Ol'Aces championship

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Three minutes and change left from adding the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League championship to its already stacked trophy case, Ol'Aces will have to wait for next week to finish off Advance X-Terminators as a power outage hit the Oleai Sports Complex last night.

At the time the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. turned off the juice at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the Oleai team was comfortably ahead, 109-96, at the 3:30 mark of the fourth and final quarter.

It was an unexpected turn of events in Game 3 for Advance X-Terminators, the pennant champions—and the bizarre began even way before the power outage.

Expected to steamroll past Ol'Aces with the departure of 6'3" center Abong Camacho to serve in the U.S. Army in Iraq, the Bug Busters just were not able to get themselves on track.

The absence of heart and soul, Edsel Mendoza, may help explain Advance X-Terminators' lackluster performance. Mendoza reportedly was injured playing for PTI in Wednesday's 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League.

With the menacing Camacho out, Ol'Aces coach Sonny Flores inserted the fleet-footed Jack Lizama at center and the Bug Busters didn't know what hit them.

Lizama's ability to join the rest of the Ol'Aces in the run-and-gun attack haunted Advance X-Terminators coach Marvin Deocares all game long.

The 6'1" former Manta Ray's eight points was salubrious to Jericho Cruz's nine in the first as Ol'Aces got off to a 32-30 lead.

Scoring machine Fred Pelisamen then began to hit his stride in the second, igniting for 12 points while Lizama added another eight as Ol'Aces increased its lead to five, 60-55, heading into intermission.

The third proved to be the turning point in the rubber match of the



Ol'Aces center Jack Lizama tries to go around the defense of Advance X-Terminators power forward Joy Dayrit in Game 3 of their best-of-three finals in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

best-of-three affair, as Pelisamen, Lizama, and Cruz joined hands to score 30 of the team's 36 points, while the rest of the crew hunkered down in defense, to give Ol'Aces a 94-78 lead going into the fourth and final quarter.

The carnage would've been worse if not for a closing 8-4 run by Advance X-Terminators after Pelisamen's 3-point play gave Ol'Aces a 22 points lead, 92-70, with 1:34 to go in the third.

In the fourth, Advance X-Terminators cut the deficit to nine points when defensive specialist John Artates fired up a 3-pointer and youngster Jonathan Lim followed up a miss to make it 89-98 with 8:08 left in the contest.

But Ol'Aces answered that with an offensive flurry of its own as Pelisamen knocked down a contested 3-pointer and Cruz consummated an acrobatic coast-to-coast layup to restore their 14-point advantage, 103-89.

Advance X-Terminators suffered another blow when power forward Gyles Ruloked followed up two consecutive misses with a reaction foul—his fifth—against Marvin Rabauliman.

Both teams appeared just going through the motions with the Bug Busters taking ill-advised 3-pointers galore while Ol'Aces players anxiously await the sound of the final buzzer.

But the Ol'Aces celebration and Advance X-Terminators' pity party was disrupted when the lights went out at

See OUTAGE on Page 42

## 'U14 CNMI Football Team made us proud'

By BRENDA SCHULTZ  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Recently our U14 Boys National Football Team traveled to Guam to play in the East Asian Football Federation's U14 Festival. Joining the CNMI in the festival were Guam, China, Japan, Mongolia, Chinese Taipei, Korea Republic, DPR Korea, Hong Kong, and Macau. It was such an honor to be invited to join this level of competition especially considering that our football association is so young. What was remarkable was that our boys did an amazing job competing with teams that have a much higher

population from which to select players as well as much longer football histories. They made us so proud through their positive sportsmanship proven by winning five green cards during the tournament. Their actions didn't go unnoticed as we received many compliments from officials about our boys' improvements from two years ago and their never-say-die attitude.

Our boys were outsized and a bit inexperienced and yet they never gave in or let down their fighting spirit. From the first whistle to the last, our boys were warriors. Our 80-lb. defenders took rockets from the other teams' 170-lb. forwards again and again. Ten-year-old Hunter Jewell took down a towering forward on a

clean tackle in front of the goal which prevented a shot on goal. There were many miraculous saves from players especially from our goalkeepers Caleb Arriola and Josiah Orlando. After playing North Korea and watching the amazing efforts of CNMI goalkeeper Caleb Arriola everyone in the crowd, including officials and spectators, clapped as he left the field.

Coach Nick Swaim had this to say about the event, "Our U14 National Team represented the CNMI and NMIFA with great respect on and off the field. I am very proud how they performed and played until the whistle of the last game, and the respect they earned from the officials, other teams and our supporters."

See U14 on Page 42



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's U14 Boys National Football Team did an amazing job in Guam competing with teams that have a much higher population from which to select players as well as much longer football histories

Kaike Triathlon participants Maimi Shimizu and Kenneth Halliday pose with Pacific Development, Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura, Marianas Visitors Authority's Ed Diaz, and a staff from Northwest Airlines prior to leaving to Tottori Prefecture yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Shimizu, Halliday leave for Kaike Triathlon

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Veteran triathletes Maimi Shimizu and Kenneth Halliday yesterday left for Japan where they will represent the CNMI in the 28th Kaike Triathlon set for this coming Sunday, July 20, at Tottori Prefecture.

Shimizu finished second to champion Renata Bucher in the 2008 Tagaman Triathlon last March with a time of 3:30:38.

She was the 16th swimmer out of the water with a time of 34:57, continuously challenged Bucher in the bike (1:49:50) and run (1:05:51) portions of the race to tear the tape

See SHIMIZU on Page 42